

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE SUSSEX COUNTY METH TASK FORCE FOR ITS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the citizens who have spent the last 2½ years working to keep the people of Sussex County safe from methamphetamines as part of the Sussex County Meth Task Force. My staff and I have had the honor of working with these committed individuals over the years and have borne witness to the gusto with which they have performed their work.

Only a few years ago, as local meth labs were busted and drug use seemed to be on the rise, the people of Sussex County did not stand idly by. Instead, they formed this task force and set to training local law enforcement, informing citizens, and quite literally taking back their streets. They have trained more than 700 volunteer firefighters and others. They have distributed informative "meth packets" to over 165 local retailers. They have worked with local educators and organizations to raise public awareness of the scourge of meth.

The results have been impressive and local law enforcement now feel confident that methamphetamines have not been able to establish a foothold in Sussex County, New Jersey. And so they are disbanding their formal group and spreading the word to show others how they've been so successful, including in a presentation at the statewide League of Municipalities conference earlier this week.

Many, many individuals deserve credit for the good work of the Task Force. Tom Davis, the Sussex County Fire Marshal, has served as Task Force Chairperson, shepherding the group through its several goals. Tom Cooney, of the Sussex County Narcotics Task Force, has helped to train hundreds of first responders and others. Dan Coronato has helped to put the Sussex County Task Force in touch with others who can benefit from their model. And Becky Carlson, Barbara Adolphe, Meg Samuel-Siegel, and Jane Butz have been the glue holding them all together, serving as a constant source of information and direction.

I commend the members of the Sussex County Meth Task Force for their extraordinary service to their community and I look forward to continuing to work with them all to keep our streets safe and our schools and neighborhoods drug-free.

PROVIDING THAT THE GREAT HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER SHALL BE KNOWN AS EMANCIPATION HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support naming the great hall at the Capitol Visitor Center the "Emancipation Hall." It is in the spirit of this country's great advances—particularly in solidifying our most precious values of freedom, equality, and justice—that I urge this body to move forward with this measure. Let the tenets of our great democracy ring down that hall—and throughout all the halls of Congress.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ERIK KRISTENSEN, USN COM-SAMSEL

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important and emotional ceremony that will take place at the United States Naval Academy's Hubbard Hall on this Saturday, November 17, 2007.

Hubbard Hall is home to Navy's crew teams, and there, a rowing shell will be dedicated in memory of an extraordinary graduate of the USNA Class of 1995, LCDR Erik Samsel Kristensen. While leading a rescue effort in support of U.S. Navy SEALs under heavy enemy fire, Lieutenant Commander Kristensen was killed in action in Asadabad, Afghanistan on June 28, 2005. In that engagement, our Nation, our Navy, and the Kristensen family lost a young warrior son who exemplified the honor, courage and commitment that is the very soul of our Navy and the Naval Academy. In the time since Lieutenant Commander Kristensen's sacrifice, he has been accorded honors richly deserved. However, in organizing the effort to name a racing shell in his memory, his classmate and shipmate, Mr. Brooks McFeely, found a unique and lasting medium to communicate the courage, determination and selflessness that characterized his great friend's life.

Over the years Hubbard Hall has been a crucible of leadership development under the guidance of coaching legends including Rusty Callow, Carl Ullrich, and Rick Clothier. Home to Olympians, scholars, and most importantly, warriors, Hubbard Hall has a rich tradition of honing the work ethic, competitive spirit and teamwork essential to victory in peace and war.

Madam Speaker, it is essential that we honor Lieutenant Commander Erik Kristensen,

a leader who epitomized the Navy rower as described by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

"Is life less than a boat race? If a man will give the blood in his body to win the one, will he spend all the might of his soul to prevail in the other?"

To the men and women at Hubbard Hall who follow the example of LCDR Erik Kristensen, that will always be a rhetorical question. In honor of a great man and his family, the people of the United States of America wish Godspeed and great victories to the shell 'Kristensen' and the midshipmen fortunate to row in that testament to honor and courage.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3074, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final FY 08 Transportation-HUB Appropriations Conference Report for the key infrastructure investments it makes and the housing support it provides.

In the aftermath of the 1–35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis this summer, it should be clear to every American that we can no longer afford the Bush Administration's policy of deferring needed maintenance to our nation's infrastructure—or shrink from the infrastructure investments necessary for the safe and vibrant America we are committed to building in the 21st century.

That's why this bill invests \$40.2 billion to improve and maintain our Nation's highways, including an additional \$1 billion to ensure the safety of our bridges. Additionally, we allocate \$9.65 billion to the Federal Transit Administration for capital improvements to our commuter and light rail systems in order to encourage the use of mass transit, alleviate traffic congestion and reduce pollution. We wisely reject President Bush's effort to bankrupt Amtrak and instead provide \$1.45 billion to support our national rail system and the 24 million passengers it serves. And we provide \$3.5 billion for vital airport modernization initiatives designed to expand airport capacity, make critical safety improvements and expand noise mitigation efforts.

On the housing front, we fund 15,500 new vouchers for vulnerable populations like low-income families, homeless veterans and the disabled. We spend \$145 million—or \$29 million over the President's request—to protect children from lead poisoning. We invest \$3.79 billion in the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG program to revitalize neighborhoods across the nation. And we allocate \$200 million to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for its work counseling the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

estimated 2.5 million homeowners at risk of foreclosure as a consequence of the ongoing subprime mortgage crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this conference report.

HONORING JEREMY THOMAS
CHARLTON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to Jeremy Thomas Charlton, who recently received the highest rank in boy scouting, Eagle Scout, on September 23, 2007. He is a member of Troop 33, sponsored by First United Methodist Church in Romney, WV.

For his Eagle Scout service project, Jeremy painted and repaired three buildings at the Hampshire County Fairgrounds. These buildings are used every summer in August during the Hampshire County Fair and throughout the year by various community organizations. Jeremy's beautification and improvements have increased the fairground as a whole.

Throughout his involvement since Cub Scouts, Jeremy has been an exemplary scout. He is a recipient of the Arrow of Light Award and officiates as a Scout Chaplain Aide to his fellow scouts.

In addition to his scout activities, Jeremy is very involved with his church's youth group and is a member of the Bible quiz team. A dedicated citizen, Jeremy has taken on several community service projects including food drives, picking up litter, and helping clean up the Potomac River.

Jeremy is truly representative of the Scout oath, "to do my duty to God and country" and I am proud to recognize a dedicated young man, like Jeremy Charlton. Hampshire County is fortunate to have him as a leader and I look forward to hearing about his future accomplishments.

BROADBAND CENSUS OF AMERICA
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3919, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Recent data indicate that the United States has fallen behind other nations in the availability, speed, and value of broadband services, which refers to high-speed Internet access. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reported earlier this year that among the group's 30 member countries, the United States had fallen to 15th place in per capita broadband use by the end of 2006, whereas in 2001 the United States had been in fourth place. The United States recently ranked 21st in the International Telecommunication Union's Digital Opportunity Index, which includes 11 different variables of technology development, including the cost of connectivity relative to per capita income.

H.R. 3919 would direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to produce a public, online map showing what types of broadband access are provided where and by which companies. As the Government Accountability Office (GAO) noted in May, 2006: "Without accurate, reliable data to aid in analysis of the existing deployment gaps, it will be difficult to develop policy responses toward gaps in broadband availability." Some experts have forecast that implementation of universal broadband service would fuel the American economy, adding \$500 billion and creating 1.2 million new jobs. H.R. 3919 is an essential first step toward bringing high-speed Internet to every American and in ensuring that our Nation's citizens can realize the vibrant future that the information age offers.

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to complete an annual broadband census, i.e., an assessment and report on the deployment of broadband service capability, which would include a comparison with deployment in other countries. The measure also requires the National Technology Information Administration (NTIA) to develop a broadband inventory map showing the availability of service and types of service available, and it permits the NTIA to make grants to assist in the development of such a map. It also requires periodic FCC consumer surveys regarding broadband service.

It has been said before that "sound data makes sound policy," and this legislation will provide the information that is necessary to assist Congress and the FCC in creating a sound, national broadband strategy to bring us in line with other countries' broadband deployment.

Mr. Speaker, I again what to express my strong support for this legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3919.

IN HONOR OF MARY ORR'S COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mary Orr, Principal at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Wyckoff, New Jersey, for her extraordinary commitment to high standards of education excellence.

Mary Orr has taken learning to a new level, integrating fresh technology, new education tools, and incredible enthusiasm into the approach at Abraham Lincoln. She mixes theory-driven number-crunching with a very personal touch at her school, encouraging teachers to find new and creative ways to help their students "learn to be learners." Mary Orr has developed her own method for using spreadsheets to chart test scores and provide teachers with easy-to-follow graphs on their classroom achievements. She also encourages her teachers to use technology to give students new ways to access information and develop a real love of learning.

An educator in Wyckoff since 1969, Mary Orr is being honored now as New Jersey's Distinguished Principal by the U.S. Department of Education and National Association of Elementary School Principals. She has long been eligible to retire, but she continues to give her all to the students, teachers, and parents of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School.

In fact, she continues to pursue enhancement of her own already-impressive professional credentials. She has already earned a master's degree in language arts and a doctorate in education administration, yet Mary Orr is pursuing a second master's in educational technology. And, all the while, she also remains an active part of the community, spending time with the local Rotary Club and earning the 2004 Wyckoff Family YMCA's First Annual William E. Boye Jr. Humanitarian Award.

From her enthusiastic spirit to her detail-driven approach, Mary Orr has made Abraham Lincoln Elementary School a model for all to emulate. I commend her on her good work there.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF FLOODING IN SOUTHERN MEXICO

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the many somber ones already extending sympathy and well wishes to the people of Mexico after the extensive flooding there last Saturday. The images were startling and sobering—a dramatic reminder of our own travails following Hurricane Katrina, as thousands in Mexico waited for rescue atop their rooftops. The southeastern state of Tabasco was struck the most crippling blow, as water inundated its capital city, Villahermosa, and affected as many as 1 million of the state's 2.2 million residents.

Words can only go so far. We should offer any and all resources that might soften the devastation in Mexico. When our struggling neighbors cry out, America heeds their calls. One of the worst natural disasters in that country's history requires immediate and attentive support.

We are with Mexico in this time of tribulation. This call to action merits our full endorsement—and the Mexican people, our most genuine compassion.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY MASQUERADERS

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Naval Academy's midshipman theater company, the Masqueraders, on the occasion of their centennial year. The Masqueraders, sponsored by the Naval Academy English Department, support the moral and mental development of

midshipmen by bringing works of literature to the stage. By engaging the Brigade of Midshipmen with complex moral issues and portrayals of human nature, the Masqueraders have helped prepare generations of future officers for the challenges of military leadership.

While midshipmen produced theater pieces in the nineteenth century, the Masqueraders formally organized in 1907 with the approval of the Commandant of Midshipmen. That year, under the leadership of Midshipmen First Class Kirkwood H. Donavin, William B. Piersol, and Frank W. Townsend, the Masqueraders began an unbroken series of annual performances that have educated midshipmen up to the present day. Productions have ranged from Greek tragedies and comedies to classics of the modern stage. Highlights of the group's century of service include a 1974 American College Theater Festival production of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, invited to play at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater and honored by the Chief of Naval Operations, and a critically acclaimed 1983 compilation of Shakespeare history plays.

Madam Speaker, we should especially acknowledge Professors Michael Jasperson, David White, and Anne Marie Drew, for their vision and dedication as Masqueraders directors from 1960 to 2001. We should also recognize the current director, Professor Christy Stanlake; co-presidents, Midshipmen First Class Joy Dewey and David Smestuen; and Officer Representative, Commander Mark Larabee. Finally, we should acknowledge the key support provided by the English Department Chair, Professor Allyson Booth, and the Director of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Colonel David Mollahan.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the Masqueraders for their century of commitment to the power of theater to prepare midshipmen for leadership in peace and war. In honor of Masqueraders' support of the mission of the Naval Academy, the people of the United States of America wish them all success for another hundred years of service to the Brigade of Midshipmen, our Navy and Marine Corps, and our country.

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Cancer Society's 31st annual Great American Smokeout—a day when smokers across the Nation mark the event by cutting back, forsaking cigarettes for the day, or perhaps quitting altogether.

I'm proud that in my Congressional district, all the hospitals—which already prohibit smoking indoors—will today be extending their smoke-free zones and prohibit the use of tobacco products anywhere on their campuses. This includes outside entrances, walkways, parking lots and garages. Patients, visitors, and hospital employees are covered by this policy. These medical institutions, which treat many diseases that result from use of tobacco products, are taking a critical step that will

lead to patients, visitors, and staff reducing and hopefully quitting the use of tobacco products. By taking this action, the hospitals in my community will lead by example in our efforts to reduce tobacco use.

The toll of tobacco in America is devastating, with 440,000 people dying prematurely each year from tobacco use. Tobacco use is the cause of at least 30 percent of all cancer deaths and 87 percent of lung cancer deaths. Secondhand smoke is a major health hazard—3,000 otherwise healthy nonsmokers nationwide will die of lung cancer annually because of their exposure to secondhand smoke.

In Maryland, there will be more than 4,000 new cases of lung cancer diagnosed this year and there will be nearly 3,000 lung cancer deaths. In addition to the thousands of lives lost to diseases caused by tobacco products, the annual direct and indirect health care costs in the U.S. caused by tobacco use is approximately \$194 billion.

As people across the country begin to attempt to conquer tobacco addiction on this Great American Smokeout day, Congress must continue to do its part on reducing the addiction to tobacco. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and pass H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act. This bill would grant the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products and the marketing of those products, which the tobacco industry has shamelessly marketed to our Nation's youth to create lifetime smokers and consumers of their deadly products.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the hospitals in my congressional district for becoming smoke-free zones and commend the American Cancer Society for their efforts in reducing America's addiction to tobacco products.

HONORING DONALD W. CAMPBELL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respectfully request that my colleagues join me in congratulating Donald W. Campbell for being named the National Parks Conservation Association 2007 recipient of the Steven Tyng Mather Award.

Don Campbell has been a tireless advocate and ambassador for Harper's Ferry National Historic Park for nearly thirty years. When he arrived at Harper's Ferry as Superintendent, Don was a self-described "peace, love, and let's everybody get along," laid-back Californian. Since then, he has forged relationships of mutual trust and understanding with the communities that surround his park and has touched many with his strong values and steady leadership.

Don's service, leadership, and advocacy for the protection of Harper's Ferry National Historic Park exemplify what it means to be a steward of America's national parks. For more than twenty years, the National Parks Conservation Association has proudly presented the annual Steven Tyng Mather Award to a National Park Service employee who has

worked tirelessly to protect our national parks. His contribution to the Harper's Ferry National Historic Park will always be appreciated and I am pleased that he is being recognized for his service to our community.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing Donald W. Campbell as the 2007 Steven Tyng Mather Award winner for his dedication to protecting this scenic and historic jewel.

911 MODERNIZATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to update and improve 911 services for today's technology.

Improving public safety is a constant struggle, as I have learned working on improving 911 services for the Houston area and the entire state of Texas as a state legislator, and I want to thank Mr. GORDON for his work on this legislation, both in introducing it and for working with all involved parties throughout the process to create a bill with such broad support.

In June 2005, after it received reports about the inability of some Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) customers to access 911 services, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued regulations requiring VoIP providers to automatically provide 911 services to their customers, and to route these calls with a call-back number and the caller's registered location, either directly or through a third-party.

After trying to address this issue for several years, I hope we can send a bill to the President this Congress addressing VoIP E911. The purpose of H.R. 3403 is to ensure that consumers using VoIP services to place phone calls have access to E911, by giving VoIP providers access to 911 infrastructure and by extending existing liability protections to VoIP service.

This bill requires VoIP providers to provide 911 service and E911 service to its subscribers in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations. It allows VoIP to access the nation's existing 911 infrastructure, which is largely operated by their competitors, traditional telephone companies. VoIP companies will also be permitted to access existing 911 infrastructure not only to deliver 911 calls, but also to provide location and call-back information for those calls.

Customers using VoIP services expect to access 911 services just as wireless and wireline customers do, and this legislation ensures it is parallel with those services when it comes to E911 regulations and requirements.

I strongly support this legislation to improve public safety, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLONEL JOHN ROSENKRANS CHAPTER OF THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Colonel John Rosenkrans Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Sons of the American Revolution. The Society strives to preserve and share the rich heritage of our Nation's birth for the generations. Its many chapters, dotted throughout our Nation, keep the spirit of the American revolution alive and help to spark the same love of country and principle that led our forefathers to give birth to our Constitution and our Nation.

New Jersey, often known as "Crossroads of the Revolution," has a long and proud history and played a pivotal role in our nascent Nation's victory in the Revolutionary War. The New Jersey Journal, published in Chatham, was a major catalyst for the Revolution. The Continental Congress met in Nassau Hall at Princeton University. One of the most famous women of the Revolution, Molly Pitcher, was a legend born of New Jersey battles. And, this fine state was the third to ratify the Constitution and the first to ratify the Bill of Rights. Then, of course, there is Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, the Battle of Monmouth, and more. These are all part of the American psyche and history.

Colonel John Rosenkrans has been described as "perhaps the most outstanding Revolutionary patriot of Sussex County." The compatriots of this chapter of the New Jersey Society of Sons of the American Revolution have made it their duty to share his stories and those of the Colonel's heroic contemporaries. They play an important part in keeping our Nation's feet firmly planted in our proud past as we reach ever higher into the future. This weekend, they will celebrate their 50th anniversary, and I commend them for their good work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A PIONEER,
THE LATE REP. GUS HAWKINS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverence of the 100 years Augustus Freeman "Gus" Hawkins, the former representative from Los Angeles, fought on this Earth for the causes of justice and equality. Prior to his passing, he had been the oldest former member of Congress, and the longevity of his legacy will easily match the longevity of his years.

He was the first African American elected to the House from California—and, indeed, from the entire western United States—as well as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He was instrumental in the passage

of the watershed Civil Rights Act of 1964, sponsoring its equal employment section setting up the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

We honor him for the strides our community, and our country, took under his stewardship, and for his impeccable sense of purpose that inspires us today.

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER SOMERSET COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Greater Somerset County Chapter of the American Red Cross, which today is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

The American Red Cross has a rich history of providing relief and assistance to victims of fires, floods and other natural disasters, dating back to its founding by Clara Barton in 1881. The organization is a great American success story, as it relies on the contributions of volunteers, and gains its funding through private donations and fees from health and safety services.

The Greater Somerset County Chapter evolved as a conglomeration of smaller chapters in central New Jersey, the first of which was the Bound Brook Chapter in 1917. This chapter includes 15 municipalities, providing residents with access to emergency and disaster services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including blood-donation programs, preparedness education, health and safety training, and medical transportation services.

I would also like to recognize the important work that the Greater Somerset County Chapter's members performed for the residents of New Jersey that I represent during flooding that occurred in recent years, particularly in the towns of Bound Brook and Manville. The vital services provided by these volunteers—and the care and compassion displayed during these difficult times—epitomized the mission of the American Red Cross.

Madam Speaker, the Greater Somerset County Chapter, as well as the American Red Cross as a whole, represents the best in helping Americans in their time of need. I am proud to represent an area that is home to such a fine organization, and I am pleased to congratulate the Greater Somerset County Chapter of the American Red Cross as it celebrates its 90th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote No. 1091. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE MICHAEL A. GUIDO THEATER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Dearborn for the dedication of the Michael A. Guido Theater at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center.

On November 16, 2007, the City of Dearborn will hold a gala celebration honoring the life of the late Mayor Michael A. Guido. It is at this gala event that the magnificent theater at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center will be dedicated in Mayor Guido's name. This is a fitting tribute as the state-of-the-art Ford Community & Performing Arts Center was the crowning achievement in the impressive career of Mayor Guido. The center is the largest municipally owned recreation center in North America.

Along with the dedication ceremony, the evening will also include a fundraiser for the Michael A. Guido Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund at the Karmanos Cancer Institute. That the funds will go to pancreatic research is especially meaningful to our late "friendly mayor" and his family.

For 21 years Mayor Guido served the city of Dearborn with enthusiasm, devotion, and a sense of humor. Throughout his career he accomplished much. Known for his commitment to the people of Dearborn, fiscal responsibility, and leadership skills, among his many achievements, Guido served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and held various leadership positions with the National League of Cities. During his battle with pancreatic cancer, Guido continued to work tirelessly in City Hall on behalf of the people of Dearborn. He also sprouted growth throughout Dearborn. A short list of his accomplishments includes the devolvement of downtown Dearborn, the creation of recreational facilities like the Dearborn Ice Skating Center, the construction of a new police headquarters, the redesign of Ford Wood Park, and the expansion of Esper Branch Library.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the city of Dearborn for the dedication of the Michael A. Guido Theater, as well as joining me in remembering the devoted public servant who served the people of Dearborn for 21 years.

HONORING ROBERT MANT

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Mant, a constituent who lost his courageous 9-year battle with colon cancer on March 29, 2007.

This week, the Town of Brewster, Massachusetts, will honor Bob for his many years of dedicated public service by naming a stunning stretch of beach along Cape Cod Bay as "Mant's Landing".

First and foremost, "Captain Bob", as he was lovingly referred to by family and friends,

was the ultimate family man. He married his high school sweetheart Linda, and was a loving and devoted family man to the very end. His three children, Sara, Joshua and Nicole, were the absolute center of his life, and there was nothing he would not and did not do for them.

A brilliant and passionate leader of men, Bob was voted President of his senior class and captain of his football team at Kearny High School in New Jersey. He would go on to excel at Princeton University, where he pursued his passion for the ocean. Upon graduation, he converted a 100 acre copper mine into a salt water lake and founded Maine Sea Farms, a pioneer aquaculture venture where he raised Pacific Coho Salmon.

Bob would continue to be a leader and innovator in the field of marine biology for the next 40 years, always doing things in his own unique way. He spent his last 20 years as the Director of Natural Resources for the Town of Brewster, and was admired by all for his dedication to protecting the town's beaches, ponds and shellfish. More importantly, Bob was respected for the way he approached his job and for his many acts of kindness.

Bob's one-of-a-kind personality, his unparalleled toughness, and passion for life were an inspiration to all who knew him. This past spring, the town unanimously voted to honor Bob by dedicating a stretch of beach along Cape Cod Bay, "Mant's Landing". It is a fitting tribute for such a remarkable man.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE RE-OPENING OF THE MARTIN WOLDSON THEATER AT THE FOX IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a historic landmark in Spokane, Washington—the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox. On Saturday, November 17th the Martin Woldson Theater will roll out the red carpet and re-open its doors after undergoing a multi-year renovation. Through the efforts of our community, the Martin Woldson Theater has come to symbolize the importance of restoration and our commitment to revitalize downtown Spokane.

On September 3, 1931 when the Fox opened its doors for the first time, it became an instant attraction for theater goers in Spokane and an important part of the downtown community. It opened to a sold-out crowd of 1,400 who came to see not only the beautiful new theater but also the love story "Merely Mary Ann."

The Fox was designed by noted Seattle architect Robert Reamer with the interior design by Anthony Heinsbergen. The auditorium, lobby, and mezzanine murals created the illusions of undersea worlds and forest canopies. It remains the only large Art Deco theater north of San Francisco.

The Fox Theater was in constant operation as a movie and performance theater for nearly 70 years. The theater closed its doors on Thursday, September 21, 2000 after a showing of the movie "Gladiator."

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Spokane Community, the Spokane Symphony will now

call the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox home. They will use the facility for their performances but the theater will also attract regional and national arts groups and performers.

I also want to recognize Miss Myrtle Woldson for her inaugural gift that helped make possible the re-opening of the Theater. It is only fitting that the theater be named for her father, Martin Woldson, whose pioneering spirit lives on in the Pacific Northwest.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the re-opening of the Fox Theater. What a thrill it will be to enjoy all it has to offer and I hope my colleagues will visit Spokane to see this magnificent piece of history.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF SERGEANT DANIEL L. MCCALL, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of SGT Daniel McCall, United States Army. Sergeant McCall gave his life in defense of our Nation and was killed in action on October 30, 2007 in Salmen Pak, Iraq. Sergeant McCall was serving with the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Daniel was a 2001 Pace High School honor graduate and a star athlete. He held numerous track records, many of which still stand. In June 2004, he enlisted in the United States Army, following in his grandfather "Duke's" footsteps. Daniel excelled as an infantryman as he graduated from airborne school and was selected for Special Forces training. It was at Fort Bragg, NC that Daniel met the love of his life, Brittney, whom he married in April 2006. He and Brittney transferred back to Fort Benning and Daniel deployed to Iraq in March 2007. Sergeant McCall's accomplishments while serving his country include: Special Forces training, sniper school, combat life saver training, and the warrior leaders course. He received the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Army Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal, just to name a few.

Daniel's grandfather, Duke, said "Daniel was loved by all who met him, and his smile would brighten up the room." His uncle, Dr. Robin McCall said of Daniel, "He set higher goals, and he set higher standards for others to follow. He didn't accept average. He was a shining example to all."

Daniel was buried with full military honors on November 8, 2007 at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola Naval Air Station. Several hundred people attended the funeral to remember this patriot—this fine soldier. While his earthly remains will be enshrined forever in Pensacola, Daniel's memory and example of selfless service will live on in the hearts of all of us in northwest Florida. I am always reminded of the greatness of our country when I meet military families like the McCalls, who supported Daniel as he volunteered to defend America.

The people of Pace have reason to be proud of Sergeant McCall, and I am humbled

to be able to represent those people. Vicki and I will keep Daniel's entire family, especially his wife, Brittney, his mother, Petra, and his grandparents, Duke and Liane McCall, in our thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of northwest Florida and our Nation do the same. May God bless SGT Daniel McCall and all of those who serve in our Armed Forces and defend our Nation around the globe.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3074, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3074, the FY08 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, but to voice my concerns over the lack of a provision omitted from the final conference report.

The Conference Report before us today addresses many of the problems facing Americans today. It helps to provide affordable housing for those Americans who need it most and modernizes our transportation infrastructure to enhance safety on our Nation's roads, our railways, and airplanes. This legislation also works to ensure the viability of mass transit operations throughout the Nation, all of which are necessary to reduce traffic congestion, lessen our dependence on foreign oil, and reduce our contribution to global warming. This is a strong, essential bill, and I will be supporting its passage, but I would like to express one concern I have with the conference report.

As a way to provide Federal housing assistance to tribal members in a way that recognizes self-determination and self-government, Congress enacted the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act and as part of it, the Indian Housing Block Grant, IHBG, program. This program provides an allocation of funds on a formula to help tribes address their housing needs. Beginning in 2000, the Census allowed respondents to claim that they are American Indian Alaska Native in combination with other racial groups, or AIAN only. In response, HUD shifted the basis for the needs portion of the IHBG distribution from single-race to multi-race.

This unilateral decision by HUD to change its distribution formula has adversely impacted many of our Nation's tribes, as there was a large shift in funding among NAHASDA recipients. Compounded with the little to no funding increases that Native American housing programs have received in the past several years, tribes and their housing entities have been left without the resources they need to provide housing services for their members. This year's House passed T-HUD appropriations bill recognized that this change has adversely impacted many Native American tribes. Additionally, it directed the GAO to conduct a study to analyze the impact of these funding changes and report its findings to Congress. Unfortunately, the Conference Report removed the language requiring the study.

One of the greatest challenges facing Native Americans is the lack of sufficient housing. Approximately 40 percent of on-reservation housing is considered inadequate—often overcrowded and lacking basic facilities, such as electricity and plumbing. The study requested by the House only asked the GAO to study the impact of funding changes on the housing needs of tribal communities, and I do not see how this study could do anything but help. We must have all information possible as we continue to address the need for adequate housing on tribal lands.

HONORING DR. JAMES D. QUAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend Dr. James D. Quay of Albany, CA. Jim is retiring early next year after a distinguished 25-year career as Executive Director of the California Council for the Humanities. Throughout his career he has been a tireless State and national leader of the effort to strengthen communities through public practice of the humanities.

Jim was born and grew up in Allentown, PA, where his family has resided for at least nine generations. He first came to California in June 1969 on a belated honeymoon with his wife, Caren. They marveled at the spectacular coast and the beautiful rolling hills, and were struck by how often strangers smiled at them as they passed on the sidewalk. When they got on the plane to return home, they felt as if they were leaving home.

Arriving back in the East, Jim immediately applied to U.C. Berkeley. After he completed service in Harlem as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, he and Caren drove to Berkeley, arriving in July 1970. They have stayed ever since. The couple has two children, Jesse (1976) and Jenny (1981).

Jim received his doctorate in English literature from Berkeley in 1981. He taught writing at U.C. Santa Cruz and worked first as the Humanist-in-Residence, then as Associate Producer at California Public Radio, before being hired to lead the California Council for the Humanities in 1983. My late husband, Congressman Walter Capps, was the Chairman of the selection committee bestowing Jim with this honor.

Among his many achievements at the Council, Jim developed the first public programs in California to discuss the Vietnam War and its domestic aftermath. He supported the creation and expansion of a program to strengthen California's community museums. He brought Motherhead, a family literacy program, to Los Angeles. He formed a partnership with Heyday Books to publish important anthologies about California and its history. He led a statewide effort to commemorate the California Sesquicentennial. And he sparked the development of the humanities council's landmark California Stories initiative.

But Jim is not just a list of accomplishments. He's a good friend, a loving husband and father, and a thoughtful, insightful leader. During a time of reflection in 1996, he sat down and made a list of 25 things that mattered most to him. Here are six of them: "My wonderful fam-

ily, at table or at play; California, the promise, the people and the place; Religious music from almost anywhere; A pint of Guinness, freshly poured; Dawn; Acts of forgiveness and compassion."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor James Quay for his work and for his example as a human being and I ask you to join me in wishing him a retirement filled with long hikes, long conversations, much music, and much good cheer.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMINE-
GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the 75th anniversary of one of the worst crimes committed against our common humanity, and to remember the victims of the manmade famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932-33.

During the Famine-Genocide of 1932-33, 7 to 10 million Ukrainians were deliberately and systematically starved to death. We are familiar with the terrible suffering caused by famines that are the result of natural forces. But this period is all the more tragic because it resulted from criminal acts and deliberate, criminal decisions by political officials. Yet it is also one of the least known of human tragedies. Despite efforts by the Soviet government at the time and afterward to hide the planned and systematic nature of this famine-genocide, the Ukrainian Diaspora has struggled to preserve its memory.

I am proud that Congress has supported these efforts. Last year, Congress approved legislation to authorize the Government of Ukraine to donate a memorial in the District of Columbia honoring the victims of the Famine-Genocide. Today, the Ukrainian Government, the Ukrainian-American Community, and the Department of Interior are working to identify a site for this memorial where all Americans can come to remember the victims of these acts and to contemplate their meaning and consequences.

This memorial is very important to the 1.5 million Ukrainian-Americans throughout the United States, and indeed to all humanity. It will not only honor their memory but serve as a tangible reminder to all of us that we must work together to prevent such tragedies in the future.

It is critical to ensure that this tragedy is never forgotten. This is an important lesson because the Soviet Union proved during this period that food can be a weapon. By introducing unrealistically high quotas on grain and other agricultural products, which were strictly enforced by Red Army troops, the Soviet government deliberately starved 7 to 10 million Ukrainians. The harvest of 1932 was only 12 percent below 1926-1930 average, but millions of Ukrainians died a slow, agonizing death of hunger.

This effort was systematic and premeditated. Having sealed the borders of Ukraine to prevent any outward migration or outside relief efforts, the Soviet Union proceeded to confiscate grain and summarily execute anyone found taking even a handful of grain that was

considered "social property." The result was devastating, and exactly what the Soviet government intended. Materials now being found in KGB archives have shown the premeditated, political nature of the famine.

The United States and its people must stand with those living under oppressive and tyrannical regimes as they struggle for their freedom. Part of this struggle is to remember the brutal acts of these regimes and their victims. Preventing the recurrence of crimes against humanity such as the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide begins with remembering the tragedies of the past.

I urge all of my colleagues to join the Ukrainian-American Community today in remembering the victims of this tragedy and renewing our commitment to ensure that it is never repeated.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have consistently voted against funding for this ill-conceived and miserably run war, but I reluctantly support this additional funding because it will require the beginning of a withdrawal from Iraq. It also contains important provisions to prevent torture and ensure that our troops are fully equipped and trained.

Because President Bush has done nothing to earn the trust of Congress or the American people, this funding is only for a few months, giving Congress the chance to exercise oversight and hold the President accountable to ensure that the withdrawal is actually occurring at a responsible pace.

With a veto likely, we must tell the President that Congress will not provide this \$50 billion, and certainly not the entire \$200 billion he's asked for, as a blank check. But I am pleased that, in this legislation, Congress is saying that we will only fund an end to this war, not its continuation. Bringing this nightmare to a quick and responsible close is my highest priority.

HONORING SANDRA COOK FOR
HER YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a public servant who is finishing 20 years of outstanding service to the Federal Government and a total of more than 30 years of public service. Members of Congress and their staff who are engaged with Federal education legislation have benefited from the wisdom and professionalism of Sandra Cook, Special Assistant in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Department of Education. Sandra joined the Department in 1988, and has worked with Members of Congress and

their staff on many of our most critical educational issues. In the past 10 years, she has specialized in elementary and secondary education, including No Child Left Behind. Sandra was involved in helping to pass NCLB and has kept the lines of communication open between the Executive and Legislative branches of Government.

Sandra is a career civil servant who knows that Federal education policy matters. She has served under administrations of both parties and has consistently received internal recognition for her professionalism and commitment to excellence. Her quiet, thoughtful comments in congressional meetings and discussions with congressional staff have provided both with information and guidance. Sandra's Rolodex is renowned for both its size and breadth. And no matter how stressful the situation because of time pressures or personalities, Sandra has never lost her calm, composed, and friendly demeanor.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University, where she was an honors student, Sandra Cook began her professional life as a teacher. She taught language arts and history for 6 years in West Lafayette, IN. Though she did not stay in the classroom as a career, those experiences shaped the rest of her professional life, particularly her work at the U.S. Department of Education.

Sandra's public service prior to joining the Department included work for several Members of Congress: Representatives Robert Daniel, Jr., Tom Railsback, and Rod Chandler; and Senator Paul Trible. She also worked for Fairfax County Supervisor Farrell Egge in Virginia, who represented the Mt. Vernon district.

As she retires from Government service and heads back to her family in her home State of Illinois, I am proud to thank Sandra Cook publicly on behalf of this Congress for her many contributions to our Nation and its students.

HONORING THE BAND CHICAGO FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the numerous achievements of the band Chicago and congratulate them as they celebrate their 40th anniversary with a concert event at the Chicago History Museum on December 4, 2007. Over the last four decades, Chicago has become one of the most successful and longest lasting musical groups in history, and their music has touched hundreds of millions of listeners around the world.

The band was originally formed in 1967 as the Chicago Transit Authority by saxophonist Walter Parazaider, trombonist James Pankow, trumpet player Lee Loughnane, guitarist Terry Kath, keyboardist Robert Lamm, drummer Danny Seraphine, and bassist Peter Cetera. Within 2 years, this band composed mostly of Loyola University music students was signed to Columbia Records and released their first album.

During the next four decades, Chicago would go on to sell over 120 million records while releasing over 30 albums, 19 of which went gold. Among their many great singles,

Chicago reached the top of the charts with favorites such as "If You Leave Me Now," "Hard to Say I'm Sorry," and "Look Away." In addition to their incredible commercial success, Chicago has garnered considerable respect among critics and has won numerous awards, including three Grammy Awards as well as a Favorite Rock Group award at the American Music Awards.

Awards and honors aside, Chicago has a special gift for bringing people together, something I have personally experienced. My wife, Judy, and I are long-time fans of the band, and I will always remember that I proposed to Judy while we listened to the Chicago song "Beginnings." Chicago also employs their fame to connect with others by supporting a number of charities including World Hunger Year. In addition, Chicago donates a portion of their ticket sales to the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation which seeks a cure to the fatal children's disease Neimann-Pick Type C and also to Charlie Weis's Hannah & Friends Foundation which helps improve the quality of life for children and adults with special needs.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that we honor the band Chicago as they celebrate their 40th anniversary, and I encourage all those who appreciate the band to visit an exhibit at the Chicago History Museum honoring the band's musical legacy. I wish the members of the band the best as they continue into their fifth decade.

CONGRATULATING FORMER PENNSYLVANIA GOV. WILLIAM W. SCRANTON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 MONSIGNOR MCGOWAN CORNERSTONE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to former Pennsylvania Gov. William W. Scranton who is being honored as this year's recipient of the Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Cornerstone Award.

This prestigious award honors an individual who best exemplifies the spirit, leadership and service of Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan as a catalyst for social, cultural and economic growth, and to promote the charitable ideals of philanthropy and collaboration in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Monsignor McGowan Cornerstone Award was designed through the efforts of the nonprofit organizations throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region that benefited from Monsignor McGowan's participation as a board member and a mentor for community improvement.

Governor Scranton has distinguished himself in so many ways throughout his eventful life.

In 1941 he interrupted his law school education at Yale to enter the United States Army Air Corps where he served as an Air Transport Command pilot during World War II.

Following the war, he completed his law school education and began private legal practice as well as participation in several businesses.

In 1959, he was appointed by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to serve as special assistant to U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. A year later, he ran and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

In 1962, he was elected governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and, during his term, he signed into law sweeping reforms in the State's educational system including creation of the State community college system, the State board of education and the State Higher Education Assistance Agency. In addition, he created a program designed to promote the State in national and international markets and to increase the attractiveness of the State's products and services.

In 1967 and 1968, Governor Scranton participated in the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention and helped write a new constitution for the State.

Since then, he has served on the boards of directors of some of America's most influential companies including A&P, IBM, the New York Times, Pan American Airways and the H. J. Heinz Company. He also served as president of the Northeastern National Bank and Trust Company.

In 1976, U.S. President Gerald R. Ford named him U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations where he served with distinction until his retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Governor Scranton for the contributions he has made to the northeastern Pennsylvania community he cherishes so much and to this Nation which owes him a profound debt of gratitude for his years of service and his remarkable achievements.

And let us also recognize the late Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan who labored tirelessly to improve the quality of life in his beloved community and to inspire others to share in the joy of service to mankind.

It is indeed fitting that the first Monsignor McGowan Cornerstone Award be presented to an outstanding Pennsylvanian who shares the same zeal for community service as the man for whom this award is named.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WILLIAM R. MOLZAHN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. William R. Molzahn for his service to the Department of the Navy as Deputy General Counsel to the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Molzahn will retire on January 3, 2008 upon having served 33 years of distinguished service. His tenure and record exemplifies the highest traditions of public service.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Molzahn attended California State University, Fullerton, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles. He began his career with the Department of the Navy's Office of General Counsel in 1974, and quickly distinguished himself as an outstanding young attorney. In 1986, he became a member of the Senior Executive Service, after which he

served as Counsel to the Naval Space and Warfare Command and Counsel to the Naval Sea Systems Command.

As the Deputy General Counsel and senior career civilian attorney for the Navy since 2000, Mr. Molzahn has expertly guided an organization of more than 600 attorneys. Among numerous other honors he has received throughout his career, he received a Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive Award in 1997 and 2005 and a Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive Award in 2002.

Recently, Mr. Molzahn was integral in the creation of the Navy's Acquisition Integrity Office, the first consolidated program within the Department tasked with proactively investigating and protecting against procurement fraud and other unethical business practices. Also, his advisement on legal issues involving the interrogation and the treatment of foreign nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base resulted in the revision of interrogation guidelines to reflect national and international legal and ethical norms.

Serving a critical role in the revitalization of the Department of the Navy's intelligence oversight mechanisms, Mr. Molzahn was actively involved in transforming the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) from a law enforcement agency to a premier counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and force protection organization.

Throughout his career, Mr. Molzahn has been an agent for transformation. He has been adept at anticipating the need to realign legal offices and policies to support the Navy mission when needed. His peers trust his unparalleled legal acumen, personal integrity, and consummate professionalism; his supervisors view him as trusted and indispensable legal advisor.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Molzahn for his leadership, and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. William R. Molzahn for his many years of exemplary service to the Department of the Navy, and our Nation. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. PATRICK SAYNE ON HIS RETIREMENT AS SUPER- INTENDENT OF PASO ROBLES JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DIS- TRICT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patrick Sayne on his retirement as Superintendent of Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

Dr. Sayne is currently the longest serving superintendent in California. He accepted his first leadership position in Warner Union Elementary School District in San Diego County in 1978, and also served in Valle Lindo School District and Lakeport Unified School District. In 1998, Dr. Sayne became the superintendent of Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, which I represent.

Dr. Sayne is a native of New Jersey, but moved to Long Beach, California with his family when he was a teenager. After graduating

from California State University at Long Beach with a bachelor of arts degree in Russian history, he later obtained a master of arts degree in education in 1977. Dr. Sayne then went on to earn his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Southern California in 1988, and remains an avid Trojan fan.

Dr. Sayne has not only dedicated his life to ensuring excellence in education for his students in the school districts he has served, but he has also served his country with 34 years of military service, which includes active and reserve duty with the U.S. Marine Corps. He also joined the U.S. Navy Reserve, and in 2004, Dr. Sayne retired from the Navy Reserves with the rank of Commander.

Not only did he serve his country in the military and dedicate his life to improving the educational opportunities of his students, Dr. Sayne is active in the community, as a volunteer with Rotary International, the Association of California School Administrators, and the American Red Cross, where he is on the board of directors for the San Luis Obispo chapter and spent two weeks in Louisiana helping those communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina. He is also a former member of the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce board of directors and a current member of the Paso Robles Library Foundation board of directors.

Dr. Sayne will be remembered as an active and involved leader during his nine years at Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. Through his long career as both a teacher and a superintendent, he always put his students first, was a strong advocate for alternative education, and consistently worked with his teachers to examine student performance to ensure that his schools were making a difference for the students.

One of his proudest accomplishments as superintendent of Paso Robles Joint Unified School District was working with the California Office of Emergency Services, OES, and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to secure funding to rebuild Flamson Middle School, which was destroyed in the December 2003 San Simeon earthquake. His leadership and dogged determination ensured that Flamson will be rebuilt and will again serve the students of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District.

Dr. Sayne and his wife Mary currently live in Paso Robles and are the proud parents of daughters Cari and Kelly. He and his wife look forward to retirement and staying involved in the Paso Robles community, and I wish Dr. Sayne well in this new chapter of his life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LADY COUGARS OF RICHARDSON'S CANYON CREEK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I rise to congratulate the Lady Cougars of Richardson's Canyon Creek Christian Academy. They won the State championship in volleyball last weekend.

It's a true Cinderella story. Slated to finish last, with no seniors, the team defeated Tyler

All Saints Episcopal to clinch the coveted state title on the campus of TCU.

The Lady Cougars ruled with a 135–7 season. They'll celebrate their huge victory this Sunday at the Conquering the Giants Celebration at Canyon Creek Baptist Church in Richardson, TX.

Congratulations to the Lady Cougars. You make Texas proud.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER W. HERNDON

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robeson County Commissioner Luther W. Herndon of St. Pauls, NC, who recently passed away. Affectionately referred to as "Bill" by those who knew him and those he served, Commissioner Herndon added new depth to the word, dedication. As a native Southeastern North Carolina and as a public servant, he offered an unwavering service to everything he did and to everyone who knew him, and unwavering commitment to his responsibilities as an elected official.

Born and reared in Robeson County, Commissioner Herndon understood the people he represented and cared deeply about making a positive difference in their lives. Over his lifetime, he experienced firsthand the dramatic changes that have taken place within our Nation's rural communities. Through his visionary leadership, he worked to ensure that the citizens of Robeson County were given the benefits that come with that progress. Because of his strong passion for his hometown, Commissioner Herndon never forgot the traditions and beliefs that make Robeson County unique. Through his dynamic leadership abilities, he was able to strike the crucial balance required by a community that values stability as well as change.

Commissioner Herndon spent more than one-third of his life in public office, sitting for 27 years on the Board of County Commissioners. His list of accomplishments as a public servant is extensive. Throughout his time in office, he worked on projects that improved the county's water services and water quality. Commissioner Herndon was instrumental in the construction of a landfill in his district that remains an example of waste management that is among the best in the State of North Carolina. He also was a strong supporter of county-led efforts to improve Social Security services among the underserved segments of the area.

Commissioner Herndon's dedication to Robeson County both as a native and as an elected official is an inspiration to us all. His record of service is a strong representation of what can be accomplished through devotion to a community and its people. As a retired member of the United States Army, it is not surprising that this dedication encompassed service offered to our Nation as well. The scope and depth of his vision for southeastern North Carolina will be felt for generations to follow. May God bless his family, and may we always remember the leadership and life of Commissioner Bill Herndon.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4156, the "Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act," and I want to commend Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leadership for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

The American people want a new direction in Iraq. By every measure, this war has cost Americans far too much—whether it's lives lost, dollars spent, or our reputation tarnished around the world.

H.R. 4156 would provide critical funding for the troops while also requiring that troops begin to redeploy from Iraq within 30 days of enactment with a goal of completion by December 15, 2008. The legislation would ensure that troops are not deployed to Iraq unless they have been fully trained and equipped. H.R. 4156 also would extend to all U.S. Government agencies and personnel the current prohibitions contained in the Army Field Manual against torture.

Just this week the Joint Economic Committee, of which I am a vice chair, released a study to examine the broader impact of the war on the American economy. So far the full economic costs of the Iraq war are about double the immense Federal budget costs that have been reported to the American people.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that Federal spending on the war could reach \$2.4 trillion by 2017. Our JEC report finds that when you add in the "hidden costs" of the war, the total economic costs will rise by over \$1 trillion to \$3.5 trillion. The report reveals how we are all paying for this war one way or another—whether it's higher prices at the pump, lost business investment, rising interest payments on the debt, or fixing all the broken bodies and our stretched military.

The President has asked Congress for an additional \$200 billion for Iraq, bringing the total request to \$607 billion in direct expenditures since the start of the war. This is well over 10 times more than the \$50 to \$60 billion cost estimated by the Administration prior to the start of the war, with no end in sight from this President.

This legislation sends the President an important message: start bringing our troops home, now.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation is the most important bill the House takes up this year because it will bring an end

to the war in Iraq by bringing our troops home safely, honorably, and responsibly.

The bill mandates the start of an "immediate and orderly" withdrawal of U.S. armed forces in Iraq within 30 days after enactment. It also requires that the reduction of forces be done in conjunction with comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategies involving Iraq's neighbors.

The bill provides \$50 billion for the cost of redeployment, not the \$196.4 billion the President has requested to keep the war going.

H.R. 4156 prohibits the use of torture on any person under U.S. custody. This is absolutely necessary because the Administration continues to defend this technique which is not sanctioned in the U.S. Army Field Manual.

The war in Iraq has taken a severe toll on our military. One and one-half million military personnel (or 30 percent of our military) have been deployed to Iraq more than once. Many of our soldiers are redeployed in less than a year. Our troops are exhausted, their equipment is shot and yet the President remains firmly committed to a Korea-like presence in Iraq for years. Our military readiness is severely threatened and our country is less safe today because of the President's ill-conceived and botched-up execution of this war.

The legislation recognizes our military readiness is at its lowest point since the Vietnam war and in order to reverse this, it requires that the President certify to Congress 15 days prior to deployment that our armed forces are "fully mission capable."

This Administration's sole focus on Iraq has left Afghanistan in an extraordinary state of vulnerability. We have seen the reemergence of the Taliban, soaring drug production, and the increase of attacks on U.S. and NATO forces. By all measures, the country is at risk of slipping away. This is a terrible and dangerous mistake. Although time is short, there is still an opportunity to defeat our enemies in Afghanistan once and for all. The President must acknowledge what's at stake and immediately take action to prevent the country from returning to what it was—a haven for international terrorism.

The President's justification for the surge was that "reducing the violence in Baghdad will help make reconciliation possible." By all accounts, including the August 2007 National Intelligence Estimate, NIE, the Iraqi government's political progress is stalled. The NIE stated that the "Iraqi Government will continue to struggle to achieve national-level political reconciliation and improved governance." The NIE goes on to state that "broadly accepted political compromises required for sustained security . . . are unlikely to emerge unless there is a fundamental shift in the factors driving Iraqi political developments." It is clear from this NIE that the Iraqi government has done little if anything to initiate political reconciliation.

The American people are demanding a new direction in Iraq. They do not want the President's 10-year war with no end in sight. In fact 68 percent of Americans oppose the war in Iraq and 60 percent support a withdrawal of our troops.

I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so as well. We can begin a new and better chapter for America and the world by changing the policy in Iraq.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation before us today because I believe it represents a safe and responsible way to bring our troops home from Iraq. The President has had more than four years to demonstrate leadership in Iraq, but at every turn his decisions have dragged us deeper into an ethnic and sectarian crisis that the President seems incapable of solving. Eleven months ago, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group released its report, which offered a comprehensive plan to build up the Iraqi government and create the political and security stability needed to bring our troops home. Unfortunately, the President rejected this bipartisan approach and instead implemented his troop surge. As a result, 2007 was the deadliest year for our troops since the beginning of the war, and we are no closer to a political solution to the problems in Iraq than we were when the troop surge began. Because the President refuses to take responsibility for his failed strategy, I believe it is time for Congress to act.

The legislation before us today provides our troops with the funding and equipment they need to safely do their job. This includes funding for our continued efforts to provide security and support for the government of Afghanistan. However, it is a far cry from the blank check that the President requested. It requires the President to begin redeploying troops out of Iraq within 30 days of enactment, and sets a goal for total redeployment by December 15, 2008. The bill also requires the President to undertake diplomatic efforts designed to engage other regional and international actors in providing for a secure Iraq. It includes important provisions that ensure the first troops sent home are the ones who have served in Iraq the longest, and that no more troops can be sent to Iraq unless they have all of the equipment and training that they need.

I had hoped that this bill would also include funding to address the growing refugee crisis in Iraq. While I am disappointed this issue is not being addressed today, I have been assured that Congress will act soon to assist the millions of Iraqis who have been displaced because of sectarian fighting.

This legislation is not perfect, but I believe that it is worth supporting because it will require the President to do something he has so far refused to do: explain to the public how he plans to get our troops out of Iraq. In fact, this bill would make it clear to the President that he will not get one more dime from Congress until his redeployment plan has been submitted. I applaud Chairman OBEY for staying true to his pledge to send the President an Iraq spending bill with accountability and timelines built in. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because it represents an important first step towards holding the President accountable and safely bringing our troops home from Iraq.

IN HONOR OF DR. SCOTT D.
MILLER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Scott D. Miller, the esteemed President of Wesley College for the past ten years. The College's Board of Trustees Chairman recently described Scott Miller's service as "a legacy of accomplishment. During Dr. Miller's tenure, the College's enrollment has tripled, fund raising has been remarkable, the endowment has doubled and the institution has been named to the prestigious Regional Best Colleges list of the U.S. News & World Report list for the fourth consecutive year."

A native of western Pennsylvania, Dr. Miller's career has been dedicated to higher education. Although he is only forty-eight years old, Dr. Miller has already served a remarkable seventeen years as a chief executive officer at institutions of higher learning—a testament to his leadership skills and unique vision. In my years of working with Dr. Miller on a variety of issues, I have found him to be an insightful and energetic man with a genuine passion for education.

Dr. Miller's impact on education is certainly not limited to his leadership of Wesley College. He is actively involved in the local community and in higher education at a national level. He was recognized by the American Council on Education in 2004 as among only seventeen college presidents who have advanced their institutions through entrepreneurial leadership. I have no doubt that we will continue to hear great things about Dr. Miller for many years to come.

I congratulate Scott Miller for his years of exemplary service to Wesley College and his countless contributions to the City of Dover and its surrounding communities. On behalf of all Delawareans, I would like to thank Scott and his family for their commitment during the past decade. We wish him all the best as he continues to excel in his career and assumes another important leadership role as President of Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia.

COMMEMORATING EL CASINO
BALLROOM'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate El Casino Ballroom's 60th anniversary.

For sixty years, El Casino Ballroom in Tucson, Arizona has been a community and culture center in Tucson and much of Southern Arizona.

El Casino has touched the lives of many generations; it is a place where families and friends celebrate weddings, quinceañeras, anniversaries, and major events in our lives. It has been a center of culture and history for generations.

For the community, El Casino is the place you look forward to going for concerts, where

you hope to see your child celebrate his or her marriage, and where you know any event will bring together new and old friends. For the young, your first celebration at El Casino is a rite of passage.

To celebrate and thank El Casino Ballroom for their service to the community is also to remember how and why El Casino started. Three friends—Ramon Siqueiros, Benjamin Jacobs and Adolfo Loustaunau—brought their vision for a place for Mexican-American families to gather. The friends purchased the land and were part of the construction team that built the ballroom on 26th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. They were the owners, the builders, the managers, and—with their families—the cooks.

For Tucson, El Casino Ballroom is a safe place. In 1947, places throughout Tucson were discriminatory, posting signs of who could and could not frequent the clubs. El Casino was open to all—Mexican Americans, Anglos, African Americans, and anyone who wanted to dance, listen to music or celebrate.

Local and famous artists have performed throughout the years in the ballroom. Among the notables are: Little Joe, Vicente Fernandez, Perez Prado, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Pedro Infante, Javier Solis, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Los Tigres del Norte, Los Lobos, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, Duke Ellington, Ike and Tina Turner, Chuck Berry, Queen Ida and local son Lalo Guerrero.

El Casino Ballroom was sold to the Latin American Social Club, a group that is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this weekend. The Latin American Social Club is an organization committed to improving the community needs, and since 1968, they have kept El Casino open.

In 1991, El Casino was temporarily closed due to roof damage. From that temporary loss, the community had a void to fill. After much work, fundraising, construction, and community support, El Casino opened its doors again in 2000. The resurrection of this historical landmark was celebrated throughout Tucson.

When the doors opened, the regular crowds, enthusiasm, and celebrations commenced. The return of El Casino Ballroom was like the return of the most treasured family member.

I congratulate El Casino Ballroom on its anniversary; I wish them many more years so that current and future generations will continue to share in its cherished memories. El Casino is in our hearts. It is a strong part of our community, and is a natural extension of most Tucson families.

HONORING THE AMERICAN CANCER
SOCIETY AND THE 31ST
GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the American Cancer Society and recognize today, November 15th, as the 31st anniversary of the Great American Smokeout. Across the country, smokers will mark this annual event by cutting back, forsaking cigarettes for the day, or perhaps quitting altogether.

Tragically, more than 440,000 people in America die each year from tobacco related diseases. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women—accounting for one in five deaths in the United States. Despite these statistics, however, there is promising news about the significant health effects of quitting. In 1990 the U.S. Surgeon General reported that people who quit smoking, regardless of age, live longer than people who continue to smoke. Quitting smoking substantially decreases the risk of 15 types of cancer and other major diseases, including lung, laryngeal, esophageal, oral, pancreatic, bladder, and cervical cancers. Smokers who quit before age 50 cut their risk of dying in the next 15 years in half, compared with those who continue to smoke.

In addition to encouraging smokers to make a plan to quit, the Great American Smokeout is a day for Americans to join the American Cancer Society and its sister advocacy organization, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in their efforts to advocate for smoke-free laws in communities nationwide. The combination of smoke-free communities and smoking cessation support is critical to helping smokers quit and stay tobacco-free.

The American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout grew out of a 1971 event in Randolph, MA, during which Arthur P. Mullaney asked people to give up cigarettes for a day and donate the money they would have spent on cigarettes to a high school scholarship fund. In 1974, Lynn R. Smith, editor of the Monticello Times in Minnesota, spearheaded the state's first D-Day, or Don't Smoke Day. The idea caught on, and on November 18, 1976, the California Division of the American Cancer Society succeeded in getting nearly 1 million smokers to quit for the day. That California event marked the first Great American Smokeout, which went nationwide the next year.

The Great American Smokeout is part of the American Cancer Society Great American Health Challenge, a year-round initiative that encourages Americans to adopt healthy lifestyles to reduce their risk of cancer.

Madam Speaker, as a nurse, I know firsthand the significant health dangers inflicted by smoking. I am honored to acknowledge the American Cancer Society and their annual Great American Smokeout today. I wish them great success in pursuing their goal to assist those who wish to improve their health by quitting smoking.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4156, the short-term war supplemental appropriations bill. Although I plan to oppose this bill, I am also pleased that its authors included several provisions meant to improve transparency and ensure U.S. troops are adequately trained and mission capable. Hopefully, the inclusion of these provisions

signifies the beginning of real progress, and I plan to work with my colleagues to develop a unified approach to address the challenges we face in Iraq.

Our soldiers in Iraq continue to do tremendous work and it is critical that we provide them with the resources they need to improve security. Unfortunately, the bill before us today would delay important troop-protection and equipment funds requested by the Pentagon. According to Department officials, delaying these funds would also force the Pentagon to begin borrowing from its regular defense budget, which in turn could impact important operating funds for troops and military bases.

Additionally, I am concerned that this legislation would condition troop funding on the initiation of an immediate redeployment from Iraq. Although I strongly support a responsible strategy for bringing U.S. troops home, these decisions should not be mandated by Members of Congress without close consultation with our military and foreign policy leaders in the field. Furthermore, the U.S. commander in Iraq, GEN David Petraeus, has already set forth a plan to bring home a full combat brigade this month and at least five brigades by July of next year. Congress should perform strong oversight with respect to the redeployment process, but placing restrictions on our military commanders is not helpful in their efforts to achieve stability and bring troops home.

Still, I support language in the bill that would improve accountability and increase transparency by requiring regular reports on the status of the military's redeployment plans. In the same way, I support sections of the bill that would ensure military units are properly trained and prepared for deployments. Embracing a comprehensive regional security plan and prohibiting torture are also key provisions which I continue to support. In fact, I recently cosponsored legislation identical to the anti-torture provisions included in H.R. 4156.

The leaders of the U.S. Senate have already made clear that this legislation does not have the votes necessary for passage and therefore many of these important provisions will be left on the table. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to embrace the substantive areas of this bill where we can find agreement, and join me in committing to a bipartisan approach for achieving stability.

Mr. Speaker, the Bipartisan Compact on Iraq Debate, of which I am an original author, identifies the areas where Democrats and Republicans have found agreement. Let us embrace these points of agreement and move forward in supporting our troops serving in combat.

H.R. 4183, TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, last night I introduced H.R. 4183, a bill to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

The National Urban Search and Rescue Response System is an important part of our Na-

tion's all-hazards preparedness and response efforts. FEMA established the Urban Search and Rescue Response System in 1989 so that local emergency services personnel could act as integrated disaster response task forces. However, the system has never been fully authorized by Congress. As a result the Taskforces have suffered funding shortfalls, and the Taskforce personnel have been deployed without the appropriate Federal worker's compensation and employment protections.

Currently the Urban Search and Rescue Response System is made up of 28 Taskforces that are sponsored by local or State agencies. Most Taskforces consist of 70 personnel that are ready to deploy within 6 hours of activation, for 10-day deployments with 24-hour operations. The Taskforces deploy with all the equipment they need and they are self-sufficient for 72 hours.

In the event of a terrorist attack, a natural disaster, an accident, or another emergency involving structural collapse, FEMA can deploy any or all of the Taskforces to help with the emergency response. Taskforces have been deployed to respond to a variety of emergencies including earthquakes, hurricanes, and terrorism events like the Oklahoma City bombing. In 2001, 25 out of the 28 Taskforces were deployed to respond to 9/11. In 2005, all 28 Taskforces were deployed to respond to Hurricane Katrina. During that deployment the Taskforces searched thousands of collapsed structures in Mississippi and flooded structures in New Orleans, resulting in the rescue of 6,587 victims in New Orleans alone.

In my district the Orange County Fire Authority sponsors the fifth California Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce. The Orange County Fire Authority and the other sponsoring agencies make significant commitments to their Taskforces by absorbing Federal funding shortfalls, maintaining the necessary equipment, and supporting their personnel's participation in training, exercises, prestaging and deployments.

It is time for Congress to provide greater protections to the agencies that sponsor Urban Search and Rescue Taskforces and the individuals that serve on the Taskforces. H.R. 4183 will authorize \$52 million annually to ensure that sponsoring agencies are not forced to absorb a Federal funding shortfall. This legislation will also provide Taskforce personnel or their families with Federal injury, illness, disability, and death benefits if the Taskforce member is injured during a Federal deployment. In addition, this bill provides employment protections so that Taskforce members will not lose their jobs because they have been deployed by FEMA.

The National Urban Search and Rescue Taskforces are a valuable resource and an excellent example of how local, State and Federal Governments can cooperate to effectively prepare and respond to all-hazard emergencies. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our Nation's Urban Search and Rescue Taskforces, and cosponsoring H.R. 4183.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO FOUGHT IN GREECE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Andrew Mousalimas, Spiro Cappony, Greg Pahules, Charles Antinopoulos, Gus Kraras, Nicholas Pappas, Peter Photis, Angelus Lygizos, Theodore Russell, Spiros Taflambas, and Vic Miller. All of these distinguished gentlemen are American veterans of United States commando units, who served behind enemy lines and fought alongside Hellenic Armed Forces in occupied Greece during World War II.

World War II involved the first U.S. experience with clandestine commando warfare. Under a classified plan developed by the Office of Strategic Services, OSS, precursor of the CIA, small Operational Groups, OGs, of specially trained U.S. Army infantrymen of various ethnic backgrounds—Greek, Yugoslav, Italian, French, and Norwegian—were infiltrated into occupied Europe to assist local partisan groups in resisting the Nazis. Among these OGs were more than 200 bilingual American soldiers. Their mission was to work with the andartes, the Greek partisans, to make the Nazi withdrawal from Greece in 1944 as costly as possible.

At the time, the OGs' brand of warfare was unique in the history of American arms. They learned special commando tactics at the OSS's secret training center on the grounds of the Congressional Country Club in Chevy Chase, MD, and received demolition training at another clandestine facility in Hagerstown, MD. Beginning in April 1944, they were inserted by night into Greece from Italy, either by boat or air drop. They then walked through the mountains to their operational bases. Once in place, they could not expect reinforcements, tactical support, or medical aid. They had no withdrawal route and were expected to remain in Greece indefinitely, living off the land and moving around on foot.

They punched far above their numbers and succeeded far beyond expectations, making 76 deadly strikes against the withdrawing Germans, on average about once every 3 days, killing or wounding over 1,800 enemy soldiers and blowing up miles of roads, track, and bridges. Their effectiveness can be judged by the severity of the German response. Even though the OGs deployed in uniform, an illegal Wehrmacht order directed that they be slaughtered to the last man if captured. The OGs' presence was a great morale booster for the andartes. OGs were the close-assault troops in operations by Greek partisans and contributed greatly to their success against occupation forces.

With their mission completed, they were withdrawn from Greece at the end of 1944 and officially disbanded a year later. Records of their actions were sealed for 40 years. Having operated autonomously and formally under Allied command, their war record was not fully recognized, with U.S. Army separation papers often not mentioning ground combat in Greece. Some never learned that they had been awarded a Presidential unit citation.

Madam Speaker, I commend and honor these American heroes—recognition of their bravery will be forever memorialized in the U.S. Congress with these remarks. Their dedication to the cause of freedom and democracy shall never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING FLOWER
MOUND HIGH SCHOOL DRUMLINE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Flower Mound High School Drumline in Flower Mound, Texas. The Flower Mound High School Drumline has been named "Best Drumline in the Nation" by the Percussive Arts Society International Marching Festival competition in Columbus, Ohio, and for the first time, was awarded the nationally acknowledged Fred Sanford Award.

The Flower Mound High School Drumline's show, entitled "Primary Focus," is centered on the idea that music is the main part of the number. Along with the "Best Drumline" award, individual students at Flower Mound High School also received awards for Best Snare Pit, Best Tenor Line and Best Ensemble. The forty-two member drumline competes annually in indoor and outdoor competitions, as well as marching in the half time shows during the football season.

It is my honor to represent a group that shows such talent, hard work, and dedication at such a young age. I extend my sincere congratulations to The Flower Mound High School Drumline.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcalls 1090 and 1091 Wednesday, November 14. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 1090 on Agreeing to the Conference Report on H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act and "yea" on rollcall 1091 to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3845 PROTECT Our Children Act.

HONORING CORINNE WHITLATCH
AND CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE
EAST PEACE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corinne Whitlatch on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace. During her twenty-one years of service, Corinne made a significant contribution to helping policymakers understand the churches' positions and roles in Middle East peacemaking. I appreciate and

admire her advocacy in support of a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that allows two states—Israel and Palestine—to live in peace and security as neighbors.

Corinne Whitlatch's dedication to achieving peace in the Holy Land and commitment to ensuring a positive future for both the Israelis and Palestinians is admirable. I greatly value the efforts she has made to help both Members of Congress and church congregants approach these issues with compassion and empathy.

As I have worked in support of Israel, of the Palestinian people, and of achieving a two-state solution, I have been proud to stand side by side with Corinne and Churches for Middle East Peace's members, as well as Jewish-Americans and Arab-Americans. My Lutheran upbringing has given me the firm conviction of the important role faith communities have in communicating a message of peace. Under Corinne's leadership, Churches for Middle East Peace has been an important voice on Capitol Hill to communicate this same message.

Madam Speaker, I would like to sincerely thank Corinne for her service on behalf of peace. She will certainly be missed, but I am confident that the fine work of Churches for Middle East Peace will continue and will help see us through a time when the vision of two states is a reality.

EMPLOYMENT NON-
DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3685) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act because I believe it erodes our family values and the foundation of our Nation.

All people should live without fear of harassment. However, this legislation would create a newly protected class based on "perceived" sexual orientation. The term "perceived" and how it applies to the workplace will be subject to endless litigation and will ultimately be defined by the court system. It will open the door for anyone of any sexual orientation to claim to have been discriminated against on the basis of perceived sexual orientation. I am disappointed that this will become the latest example of unelected officials deciding an issue for the Legislative branch.

Meanwhile, faith-based institutions such as summer camps, Bible book stores or Christian schools will be the ones held hostage. The bill inappropriately excludes the hundreds or even thousands of religious schools that identify themselves as non-denominational. Unfortunately, the definition of a religious organization does not adequately cover religious schools that are not "controlled, managed, owned, or supported by a particular religion, religious corporation, association or society."

To attempt to meet exemptions, these faith-based institutions would be subject to highly

inappropriate federal intrusion into their religious activities to determine, in essence, if they are religious "enough." Meanwhile it puts schools that are not directly associated with a church at risk. In *Baltimore Lutheran High School Assn v. Employment Security Admin.*, 490A.2d 701 (Md. 1985), an unemployment case, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals ruled against the school declaring it was not "operated primarily for religious purposes." However, the school conducted mandatory chapel services and attempted to integrate a distinctly Christian worldview into all of its courses.

As this current bill would result in a fundamental departure from the longstanding framework of the Civil Rights Act, widespread litigation, a trampling of hiring protections for many faith-based institutions, and an undermining of state laws that define and protect marriage, I will vote to oppose it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on November 13, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 1082.

Had I been present would have voted: rollcall No. 1082—"yea."

SHAW UNIVERSITY BEARS
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shaw University Bears football team for winning the 2007 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, CIAA, Championship, under the leadership of head coach Darrell Asberry. After a hard fought season, the Bears defeated Virginia Union University in a dazzling double overtime performance 31–24 at the Charlotte Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 10, 2007.

Madam Speaker, Shaw University has contributed significantly to the growth and development of North Carolina and the enrichment of countless of its citizens. I am proud to have the honor of representing this outstanding institution. It is fitting that we take a moment today to honor these young athletes as shining stars for the university.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE
INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Independent Living, Inc., based in Newburgh, New York, as it celebrates the

twentieth anniversary of its founding. For the past two decades, Independent Living has championed the cause of equal rights, access, and opportunity for persons with disabilities, and has worked throughout the Hudson Valley region to enhance the quality of life for these individuals and their families.

Founded in 1987, Independent Living currently provides services and assistance to more than ten thousand people annually. Through the hard work, vision and leadership of founder and Executive Director Douglas J. Hovey, Independent Living has continued to develop and expand its programs and advocacy for persons with disabilities, increasing its staff to more than two hundred.

Independent Living continues to make progress towards the goals of eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers for all persons with disabilities and ensuring that these individuals have universal access and opportunity in every aspect of community life. The organization's programs include information and referral services, peer counseling, individual and systems advocacy, and independent living skills training. Independent Living provides critical assistance with housing, education, employment, medical needs and personal attendant services, as well as advocacy for needed public policy changes at the local, state and federal levels of government.

Independent Living has systematically worked to reduce barriers for persons with disabilities by consulting with and educating family members, educators, service providers, public officials and representatives from the business community. The organization is operated by people with disabilities who clearly understand such barriers and can work effectively to resolve these obstacles. Through their diverse programs for individuals with disabilities, Independent Living also has helped to foster motivation, independence, self-direction, employment, social integration, and community participation.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor Independent Living for its 20 years of committed and distinguished service. I congratulate and salute Doug Hovey, the board of directors and the staff and supporters of this organization for their very positive and lasting impact on the lives of so many individuals and families. I offer my appreciation to Independent Living, Inc., which continues to serve as a strong model for similar efforts throughout our Nation.

HONORING HELENA TRAFFORD DEVEREUX

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Helena Trafford Devereux—a pioneer in special education. From the beginning of her impressive career, her interest as a young school teacher from south Philadelphia was focused on children, usually in the back of the room who were unable to keep up with the rest of the class and were all too often forgotten by other educators. In the early 1900s, Helena Devereux began working with these children and others throughout Philadelphia as she developed the cornerstones of

modern-day special education. Her passion led her to work further with these children, bringing eight of them into her home so that she could provide the necessary instruction not only educationally, but vocationally and socially as well. Her success led to the 1912 founding of Devereux, which has become the Nation's largest nonprofit provider of behavioral healthcare for people with developmental/intellectual disabilities, behavioral disorders and mental illness. Ninety-five years later, it now serves 15,000 clients in 11 states throughout the country.

Ms. Devereux's work was truly at the cutting edge for its time. Professionals throughout the country and representing diverse disciplines came to Devereux to study her models of treatment and special education. Being a true visionary, Helena Devereux knew the importance of providing educational services to people with special needs. But more importantly, she knew the importance of training professionals in the fields of education, psychology, social work, psychiatry and related areas. It was therefore important to her that this mission be incorporated in the 1938 charter of Devereux and the 1956 bylaws.

Fifty years ago, shortly before her resignation, Helena Devereux established the Institute of Research and Training, now known as the Institute of Clinical Training and Research (ICTR). ICTR is one of the ten oldest, continuously accredited internship training sites by the American Psychological Association in the country. Since its inception, over 1,200 individuals have received their pre- or post-doctoral training at Devereux and many of these individuals have gone on to attain positions of prominence in the field of psychology.

ICTR has also excelled in developing best practices in the field of education for infants and toddlers, children with significant behavioral disorders and mental illness, and children with developmental disabilities, including autism.

In celebration of the 95th anniversary of Devereux and the 50th anniversary of the ICTR, Devereux is planning a Gala celebration at the Independence Seaport Museum on Friday, November 16, 2007. The Gala is expected to draw the greater Philadelphia business and civic community for an evening of entertainment and appreciation.

While Devereux is recognized as a national leader in providing services for children, adolescents and adults, the largest population base served is in southeastern Pennsylvania. Almost every town and township in the Delaware Valley, as well as more than 40 counties throughout the state, are served by Devereux. In Pennsylvania alone, it serves 1,800 individuals.

Madam Speaker, I am sure all of my colleagues join me today in celebrating the 95th anniversary of Devereux and the 50th anniversary of the ICTR. Their legacy—and the tireless work undertaken by Helena Devereux—is evident in the countless lives that they have affected, and those students who they continue to help every day.

HONORING ANDREW HERDMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Herdman of Kansas City, Missouri. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew Herdman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ERIKA B. SCHLAGER'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE COMMISSION SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Erika Schlager for her 20 years of tireless service to the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Erika began her advocacy work as a member of the Commission's professional staff on September 8, 1987, during a period marked by repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Central and Eastern Europe, the region of her particular expertise.

Driven by a passion for upholding the human rights commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments, Erika devoted herself to documenting the cases of political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and others denied their fundamental freedoms. Her focus on the countries of the region began with her academic studies as well as her personal experience. Indeed, Erika was in Poland for further studies when the regime imposed martial law in late 1981. Shortly after she joined the Commission staff, she helped organize a delegation of members to Czechoslovakia where, among other activities, they planned to meet playwright and Charter 77 founder Vaclav Havel. The courageous rights leader was detained by the secret police and prevented from meeting the delegation. Erika was an ardent champion on his behalf as well as for those lesser known victims of repression. She was able to accompany a delegation of Commissioners to Poland in 1989 to witness the installation of the first democratically elected government there in more than six decades. Her diligent monitoring of developments in these countries continues

as those nations move to further consolidate democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

An impressive expert in the field of international law, Erika continues her advocacy in areas such as the plight of Roma and property restitution for victims of the Holocaust to the challenge of preserving human rights in a post-9/11 world.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Erika Schlager for her faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

CONGRATULATING CARDINAL
FRANCIS GEORGE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. on his election as President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On November 13th, Cardinal George was elected by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to the position of president during the bishops' November meeting in Baltimore. He is the first cardinal to be elected president or vice president of the conference since 1971. Cardinal George will serve in this position for the next three years.

As President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal George will act as spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Church in America and will represent the U.S. church in meetings at the Vatican. Additionally, Cardinal George will accompany Pope Benedict XVI during his first papal pilgrimage to the U.S.

Prior to his election as president of the conference, Cardinal George served as Vice President since 2004. Cardinal George also served on numerous USCCB committees including Liturgy, Doctrine, Pro-Life Activities, and the sub-committee on lay ministry. Since 1990, he has been Episcopal Moderator and member of the board of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities.

A Chicago native, Cardinal George has been an exemplary leader for Chicago's Catholic community. He currently serves as the Archbishop of Chicago, a position he was appointed to in 1997 by Pope John Paul II. In January 1998, Pope John Paul II announced Archbishop George's elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals. Cardinal George has been an invaluable asset to Chicago's Catholic Community, and his tenure as Archbishop has been a successful one.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cardinal Francis George on his election as President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and I wish him the best of luck in his new role.

HONORING CAVERNA HOSPITAL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caverna Hospital in

Horse Cave, KY, on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary this year.

Caverna Hospital, has been serving Hart County since 1967. Beginning in the early 1960's, the citizens of Horse Cave and Cave City, KY raised the \$350,000 necessary to qualify for federal funding. The community broke ground in July of 1965. Caverna's first patient, Mrs. Lindberg Forbes of Hardyville, was admitted on June 5, 1967.

Caverna has made a number of facility improvements over its four decade history in order to better provide high quality health care to the region. Upgrades were made in 1989 to the patient rooms, CCU, the nursing station, and the cardiac monitoring system. Another major addition occurred in 1997 when a new Emergency Room, x-ray wing, laboratory, waiting area, and more patient rooms were added. Caverna has also made major equipment purchases including a CT scanner, mammography equipment; and ultrasound equipment.

It is my privilege to honor Caverna Hospital today, before the entire House of Representatives, and for its commitment to providing quality health care to the citizens of Kentucky.

HONORING JUSTIN C. SCHULTZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin C. Schultz of Kansas City, Missouri. Justin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Justin C. Schultz for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BEDFORD COUNTY,
TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of Bedford County, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. The community in Middle Tennessee will commemorate its bicentennial on December 3.

The area of Bedford County was established by the Tennessee General Assembly by carving out a portion of Rutherford County to extend south to the state's boundary with the Mississippi Territory in present-day Alabama.

The county was named for Capt. Thomas Bedford, a soldier who served in the American Revolution.

Today, Bedford County may be best known as the Walking Horse Capital of the World. For nearly 70 years, thousands of people have gathered in Shelbyville, the county seat, during late August and early September for the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. During the first Celebration in 1939, more than 40,000 people attended the event.

In June of each year, nearby Bell Buckle hosts the annual RC and Moon Pie Festival. During the weekend of the festival, the tiny town of 400 residents receives about 15,000 visitors who are able to participate in a 10-mile run, watch parades, spit watermelon seeds and have a taste of the world's largest Moon Pie.

County Mayor Eugene Ray and the rest of the Bicentennial Committee will lead next month's celebration. They have done an outstanding job of organizing this event, and I commend their efforts.

The communities that make up Bedford County have great reason to take pride in their beautiful slice of Middle Tennessee. I wish them well and hope the next 200 years are as prosperous as the first 200 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STATE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the State University of New York's (SUNY) dual diploma program in conjunction with the Turkish Council of Higher Education (YOK). This unique and highly successful international higher education effort has partnered nine top-tier Turkish institutions with nine SUNY campuses. Two of which, SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Binghamton, are located in the district that I represent. This program and others like it are particularly important in the face of our country's current challenges in the Middle East and throughout the world.

The SUNY system, comprised of 64 campuses, provides first-class higher education for over 417,000 students and is the largest comprehensive university system in the nation. Tasked with increasing the number of international students on SUNY campuses, SUNY's Office of International Programs has initiated a broad series of programs to prepare students for an increasingly interconnected world. The dual diploma program with Turkish universities highlights SUNY's commitment and leadership in international education.

Evolving from initial talks held in 2000, the first cohort consisting of 33 Turkish students arrived on SUNY campuses in 2003. These students spend half their undergraduate education at a SUNY campus, half at a Turkish university, and receive a diploma from both. Through committed efforts and diligence, the program now boasts more than 1,500 students in 24 programs and has graduated 100 students. This year the Institute of International Education recognized the program with the Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education Partnerships.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to acknowledge SUNY's leadership, the Office of International Programs, SUNY and Turkish partnership institutions, and all those who have worked to ensure that New York State's system of higher education provides the international components that are critical to higher education, our nation's competitiveness, and our image abroad. Furthermore, I am deeply honored to represent two of SUNY's host institutions, SUNY Binghamton and my alma mater, SUNY New Paltz. Each of these universities' contributions in education and efforts at globalizing their campuses benefit their communities in many broad and profound ways and it is my pleasure to recognize them during International Education Week 2007.

RECOGNIZING LAMAR UNIVERSITY'S DISHMAN DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing, once stated that "Unless we are making progress in our nursing every year, every month, every week, take my word for it we are going back." Lamar University's JoAnne Gay Dishman Department of Nursing has taken this philosophy and ran with it. Their continued excellence has turned the nursing program into one of the most successful in the country.

Nursing education began at Lamar University in 1974. Since then, it has become the second most popular in the university, trailing only General Studies. From 2001 through 2005, the program saw a 30 percent increase in the number of students admitted to the program. Over the same period, the number of pre-nursing majors increased by 195 percent. The popularity stems from the success of both the program and the students. The faculty is staffed by a number of experts with many years of experience. Recently Department Chair Eileen Curl was elected president of the Texas Association of Deans and Directors of Professional Nursing Programs. May 2007 graduates of the Department's associate of applied science program achieved a 100 percent passing rate on the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses. The national passing rate is 87 percent. Success in the classroom has lead to success after graduation. The University states that 98 percent of senior nursing students have job offers before graduation, and a full 100 percent are employed within six months after graduation. The knowledge learned in the classroom benefits all Southeast Texans, as the University estimates that between 60 to 80 percent of Lamar's graduating classes are employed in local health care agencies. Southeast Texans can feel safe, knowing that they have qualified, competent, and professional nurses to assist them.

Lamar University's Dishman Department of Nursing had humble beginnings but quickly grew to become one of the most popular and distinguished majors. The faculty provides quality education relevant to today's ever-changing world. The students strive to be the best and showcase their values, work ethic

and integrity. With an enrollment that grows by the year, the Dishman Department of Nursing will be turning out prominent medical professionals for years to come.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLORADO PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER THOMAS C. MCGUIRE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas C. McGuire, an associate professor of English and Fine Arts at the United States Air Force Academy, who has been named the Colorado winner of the 2007 U.S. Professors of the Year Award. Since 1981, this program has saluted outstanding undergraduate instructors throughout the country.

This award is recognized as one of the most prestigious honors bestowed upon a professor. To be nominated for this award requires dedication to the art of education and excellence in every aspect of the profession. Mr. McGuire is personally committed to each student and has helped to shape the leaders of tomorrow's Air Force. We are all proud of his accomplishment.

I commend Mr. McGuire for his leadership and dedication. Mr. McGuire's passion has no doubt inspired an untold number of students. It is excellent professors like Mr. McGuire that have enabled the United States Air Force Academy to become one of the very best institutions of higher learning in the nation. I wish today to congratulate Mr. McGuire and the Academy on this tremendous honor.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING HAZEL FARMER ON HER 106TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ms. Farmer has demonstrated values of hard work and service throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, Ms. Farmer loves helping people through volunteering and taking care of them; and

Whereas, Ms. Farmer has dedicated her life to teaching our youth; and

Whereas, Ms. Farmer's character has been praised by the staff at Walnut Hills Retirement Community, as "a sweetheart and a joy to be around;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Hazel Farmer a happy and healthy 106th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

HONORING THE FOSTERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1989 with 10 firefighters and an old handed-down U.S. Army truck. The department has 14 volunteers on its roster and has already responded to over 30 calls in 2007.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Fosterville, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Fosterville Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Bob DeCarlo, Deputy Chief Billy Wallace, Capt. Chuck Lloyd, Lt. Andy Kimbrell, Lt. Issac Keith, Administrative Firefighter Emily Bradley, Training Officer Kevin Kimberlin, Chaplin and Firefighter Clark Sneed, J.D. Iddings, James Bass, Jason Zimmerman, Mark Bonifant and Woman Auxiliaries Emily Bradley, Mary Bass, Candice Lloyd and Jennifer Chapman; Explorer Junior Firefighters: Andrew Redd, Tiffany Kimberlin and Brandi Kimbrell.

WAITING ON JUSTICE TO BE SERVED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, thirteen years ago in Humble, Texas, 33-year-old Farah Fratta was murdered by a hit man, allegedly hired by her own husband, Robert Fratta. In 1994 Robert Fratta was sentenced to death row for his part in this murder-for-hire plan. Since their daughter's murder, Farah's parents, Lex and Betty Baquer have raised Farah's children. The Baquers recently learned that Robert Fratta was granted a new trial.

This second chance frustrates and shocks the Baquers. In the second district of Texas, the community of Humble is troubled to learn that the Baquers and their grandchildren will have to relive another trial. The murder of a loved one is an exceptionally difficult experience yet too often, the victim's families are left alone to fight the criminal justice system. The Baquers have found support and strength through God and in their grandchildren. I want the Baquers to know they are not alone in

their fight, we will continue to remember the legacy that Farah left behind.

So, I stand here today to pay tribute to Betty and Lex Baquer. As a parent of 4 children and 5 grandchildren, I can think of nothing worse than to lose a child. I commend the Baquers for their determination and commitment to justice. As a former judge and prosecutor, I have witnessed how victims as well as their families are treated in the justice system. It's shameful! The first duty of government must be to make sure criminals who commit crimes pay for their acts of violence.

Justice must be served.

And that's just the way it is.

A TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER LISA CHAN OF DALY CITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share news of an extraordinary young woman from my home district. Lisa Chan, a 17-year-old senior at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, and a Daly City resident, has been recognized with a Jefferson Award. It is a fitting honor, but let me say it is but one more accolade for this extremely accomplished young lady.

Some might refer to Lisa as an "over-achiever," but that would hardly do justice to the list of accomplishments she has already achieved. At her school, she is editor-in-chief of the yearbook, President of the California Scholarship Federation, President/Founder of the Leo's Club, and Academic Representative of the Student Council. Lisa is also able to maintain a 4.2 grade point average.

She won this year's Miss San Francisco Outstanding Teen pageant, which is part of the Miss America organization. Her winning theme of "Empowering the Youth Toward an Educational Revolution" highlights her extracurricular activity of creating a non-profit agency to do exactly that. Her "Bay Area Strive" group puts high school students to work helping elementary school students. It is a stunning success in its own right, empowering young adults to become active in the effort to upgrade the California public school system. In fact, Lisa has the goal of publishing a book about the effort by her 18th birthday. I am confident that she will succeed in that goal, as she has succeeded in so much already.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that Lisa Chan also was one of just eight teenage girls to win the national Target House Volunteer Contest, which focuses on volunteerism. Few teenagers show the drive and determination evidenced by Lisa Chan at such an early age. She is truly a role model for her peers and I am proud to introduce her to my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I have little doubt that Lisa Chan will fulfill her goal of attending college and eventually studying law. Her commitment to the community, matched by her intelligence and perseverance, will hold her in good stead as she pursues her ultimate goal of political activity.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING RUBY GILLIAM ON HER 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam has been a devoted mother and wife, mentor, confidant, and friend to many; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam has demonstrated values of hard work and dedication throughout her life, always maintaining a positive outlook; and

Whereas, she has an unwavering commitment to her community and has been actively involved; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gilliam character and faith has been appreciated for enhancing all of those she has come into contact with; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I wish Ruby Gilliam a happy and healthy 85th birthday. We recognize the tremendous impact she has had in her community and in the lives of all those people she has touched.

HONORING THE BELL BUCKLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1950 with 15 firefighters, a chief and a truck. Currently, the fire department has 20 volunteers on its training roster and is building an addition to the Fire Hall that will house six trucks.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Bell Buckle, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Bell Buckle Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Mary Lokey, Deputy Chief Ronnie Lokey, Deputy Chief Dave Fisher, Richard Miller, Brian Wafford, Brian Lokey, John Crosslin, Jenna Gragg, Matthew Joseph, Nathan Gragg, Jason Rieben, Matthew Gragg, Travis Miller, Robert Gown, Leo Wilcox, Whitt Ross, Ken Del Villar, Adam Prince, Cain Owens and Daniel Gragg. Also listed on the training roster are retired Chief James Elkin and Phillip Daniel, Gone But Not Forgotten.

THE SPIRIT OF AGGIELAND LIVES ON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, College Station, Texas is the home of Texas A & M University, also known as Aggieland. Texas A & M was founded in 1876, and was the first public institution of higher learning in the state of Texas. Although the education received at Texas A & M is of the highest caliber, it is not the only element that attracts prospective students to College Station for their college careers. It is the sense of belonging that is created at Texas A & M—the Spirit of Aggieland, that unique school spirit that sets Texas A & M apart from the rest.

The spirit of Aggieland, besides being the alma mater of Texas A & M University, refers to the "spirit that can ne'er be told." Many people have described Texas A & M as having a unique school spirit that "From the outside looking in, you can't understand it. And from the inside looking out you can't explain it." What has helped develop this sentiment is the time honored traditions that Aggies everywhere hold dear. Such traditions include Midnight Yell Practice, 12th Man, Yell Leaders, Reveille, Muster, Silver Taps, and Gig'Em. And one of the most notable traditions is Aggie Bonfire.

Bonfire is built every year and lit before the big football game against the University of Texas Longhorns, or "t.u." as the Aggies call them. Bonfire is meant to symbolize the burning desire to beat the University of Texas in the annual football game. The first Bonfire built in 1909 was a heap of trash and debris. By 1969 the stack of logs set a record for the height of a bonfire at 109 feet, 10 inches. There have only been 2 years when bonfire did not burn as scheduled. The first was 1963, the year President Kennedy was assassinated. As a sign of respect, the students dismantled the stack. Head Yell Leader, Mike Marlow explained, "It is the most we have and the least we can give." The other year was 1999, when at 2:42 am on November 18th the 40 ft high stack consisting of 5,000 logs collapsed killing 12 people and injuring 27 others.

It was in dealing with this tragedy that the true strength of Texas A & M emerged. Rescue workers were on the scene within minutes of the collapse. The entire Texas A & M football team and many members of the Corps of Cadets rushed to the site to assist in manually removing the logs. An official memorial service was held in Reed Arena less than 17 hours after the collapse. Over 16,000 mourners gathered to pay tribute to those who had died and those who spent all day trying to rescue the injured. At the end of the ceremony, the crowd spontaneously stood, linked arms, and started singing Amazing Grace.

Eric Opiela, Vice President of the Student Government of The University of Texas at Austin, attended the memorial service, and described the scene saying, "Aggieland is a very special place, with special people. It is infinitely better equipped than us at dealing with a tragedy such as this for one simple reason. It is a family. It is a family that cares for its own, a family that reaches out, a family that is unified in the face of adversity; a family that moved this Longhorn to tears."

It is this same sense of unity and family that has compelled current Aggies to continue their tradition of Bonfire. Though the event is now held off campus and not sponsored by the University the passion lives on. And so, on this 8th anniversary of the Texas A & M Bonfire collapse, we pay tribute to the Spirit of Aggieland. May it continue to mystify us, dazzle us, and thrive forever.

And that's just the way it is.

UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, there are few more disturbing examples of human cruelty toward its own kind in the history of the world than the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. It is inconceivable that a government could have so little value for human life to kill up to 10 million people, including 3 million children, in order to break national resistance to Communism. For 500 days, 25,000 people died daily from hunger, when nature's harvest provided them with everything needed to lead a normal life and when food was in their plain view. The brutality of such a policy and the callous way it was enforced are beyond comprehension. The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide was caused by the imposition of extraordinarily high grain quotas in the agricultural areas of Ukraine, and inhumane efforts by the Soviet government in taking every foodstuff available to fulfill the quotas. Taking a handful of grain or a potato was considered "stealing from the state" and capital punishment could be—and was—applied as a consequence.

The eyewitness accounts are horrifying in their candor. One survivor wrote the following in her diary: "Upon entering [the village] we caught up with a boy of about 7; my fellow traveler shouted [for him to step out of the way] but the boy did not seem to hear and continued to walk, swaying; our carriage caught up with him; I shouted; the boy stepped out of the way as though unwillingly; I wanted to look him in the face. That face left a chilling impression on me, one that I will never forget. I think that this was the expression of people who know that they will soon die, but who do not want to die. But this was a child. [. . .] I cried silently, so that my companion would not hear. The thought that I could not do anything, that millions of children are dying from hunger [. . .] dismayed me. . . . Near the village soviet office we ran into an old man with the same expression on his face."

When the news of the Famine-Genocide reached the free world, the Soviet government denied its existence and refused humanitarian aid that could have saved the lives of millions. For the next 60 years, the government aggressively continued to deny the existence of the Famine-Genocide and even banned the use of the word "famine".

On the event of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, I am confident that I speak on behalf of my constituents and our entire nation when I join the Ukrainian nation in mourning the millions of innocent vic-

tims. Their memory will always be with us. I believe it is our moral responsibility to recognize the Ukrainian American community's work and continue to inform the whole world of the crime against the Ukrainian people and humanity committed by the Stalinist totalitarian regime. We cannot let any similar tragedy be repeated ever again. Together, we need to continue to fight totalitarianism and the oppression until every corner of this planet is free and democracy reigns supreme. We honor the memory of the innocent victims and the brave fighters for Ukraine's independence today and we will remember them always.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH IAN COOKE FOR LEADING THE GIRL'S SOCCER TEAM TO PLACE SECOND IN THE MAN- CHESTER UMBRO INTER- NATIONAL CUP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Ian Cooke showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Coach Cooke was a leader and mentor for the team; and

Whereas, Coach Ian Cooke has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Ian Cooke for leading the girl's soccer team to place second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 soccer season.

HONORING THE BAPTIST RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Baptist Ridge Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Baptist Ridge Volunteer Fire Department was established in 2000 in order to serve the city of Hilham. Today, the department has 21 volunteers on its roster.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Baptist Ridge, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Baptist Ridge to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Baptist Ridge Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief David Boles, Asst. Chief Joe Boles, Capt. Jackie Hamlet, Lt. Ted Tucker, Anthony Boles, Ravy Watson, Dewayne Scott, Johnny Allen, Kevin Taylor, Mark Minske, Kenny Estep, Bobby Gene Lee, Kyle Spear, Farrah Spear, Reba Allen, Brenda Boles, Robert Abney, Kimberly Tucker, Linda Elam, Mary Boles and Wanton Young.

BRILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARNS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the staff and students at Brill Elementary School, in Klein Independent School District, set a goal for their physical fitness program and worked hard to achieve it.

As a result of their perseverance and determination, Brill has been awarded the title of Physical Activity and Fitness Honor Roll School by President George Bush's Challenge Program.

Brill received this honor by serving as a national demonstration school in physical fitness and sports for the past three years. During this time, other schools looked to Brill as having the model physical fitness program.

I commend the students, faculty and staff of Brill Elementary for their dedication to physical fitness. I would especially like to recognize the efforts of physical education teachers Darlene Sentesi, Jack Hall and April Holbrook.

This elementary school is the only one in Texas to be considered a national demonstration school and to be awarded the honor roll distinction.

I am proud of the faculty at Brill Elementary for their commitment to the well-being and health of its students.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING MRS. LINDA BUZINEC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with immense gratitude and admiration that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mrs. Linda Buzinec, the longtime Mayor of Hobart, IN. A close personal friend of mine, I can truly say that Linda is one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished and honorable citizens, as well as one of its greatest leaders. She is one of the most involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to the people of Hobart, IN. First elected to public office in 1988, Linda has been a constant fixture in Hobart, where she has always been fully committed to the people she was elected to serve. Most recently, Linda has served as Mayor of the City of Hobart for the past 12 years. Her efforts throughout her career in public service and the impact she has had on

the city and the people of Hobart will forever be remembered. To honor Linda, a reception will be held at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, IN, on Tuesday, November 27, 2007.

Linda Schmelter was born in Gary, Indiana, to Leonard and Ann Schmelter. A lifelong resident of Hobart, Linda attended Saint Bridget Elementary School and Hobart High School. Upon her graduation, prior to beginning her career as a public servant, Linda was employed by Hobart Federal Savings. Undoubtedly, this position helped Linda develop the communication and organizational skills that would be critical in her future roles as an elected official. Early on, Linda began her career in the public sector in Hobart as an employee of the Hobart Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Throughout the years, she also held positions with the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, NIPSCO, where she was stationed in both the Hobart and Gary locations.

In 1988, Linda was elected First District Councilperson, a position she held through 1995, when she was elected mayor. This began Linda's 12-year mayoral career. During that time, Linda's commitment and proven leadership skills led to many impressive advancements, many of which will have an immeasurable impact on the City and the people of Hobart for years to come. For all of Linda's leadership, hard work, and dedication to the people of Hobart, Linda was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award in 2005 from former Governor Joseph E. Kernan.

Although Linda's responsibilities in her capacity as mayor have occupied a large amount of her time, Linda has always been active in various organizations throughout the years, including: the Kiwanis, the Hobart Industrial Economic Development Corporation, HIEDC, the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, the Hobart YMCA, and the School City Educational Foundation. She has served on several boards, including: the Workforce Development Board, the Crisis Center Board, and the Saint Mary Medical Board. A dedicated and lifelong Democrat, Linda has also served as Vice-Chair of the Hobart and Lake County Democratic Precinct Organizations and as Treasurer of the Indiana State Democratic Organization.

While Linda has passionately served the people of Hobart with unwavering dedication for many years, her commitment to her community is surpassed only by her love for her family. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Linda and her husband, George, have been married for over 26 years. They have one son, Michael, and two teenage grandchildren, whom they cherish and adore.

Madam Speaker, Linda Buzinec has selflessly given her time and efforts to the people of Hobart, Indiana, throughout her years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending her for her years of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing her the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH SCOTT NICHOLLS FOR
LEADING THE GIRL'S SOCCER
TEAM TO PLACE SECOND IN THE
MANCHESTER UMBRO INTER-
NATIONAL CUP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Scott Nicholls showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Coach Scott Nicholls was a leader and mentor for the team; and

Whereas, Coach Scott Nicholls has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Scott Nicholls for leading the girl's soccer team to place second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007 soccer season.

**HONORING THE PUTNAM COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1977. The department started with a Ford van and two 55-gallon drums of water, a water pump and garden hose and approximately four people.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Putnam County, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Putnam County Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Keith Barber, John Barrow, Tony Beaty, Gene Billbrey, Daryl Blair, Jason Bohannon, Devin Brown, Adam Brown, Roger Brown, Tom Brown, Brian Burgess, Tim Burton, Marshall Cox, Carol Dempsay, Josh Dempsay, Charles Doss, Chris Edgerton, Derrick Edwards, Brent Emery, Timothy Gann, Daniel Harris, Jeff Hicks, Daniel Hodge, Shawn Hotsiniller, Grant Hubbel, Darrell Jennings, Jason Jennings, Jason Jones, Mike Keith, Jim Knight, Richard Lynch, Lonette Marcus, Jeff Matheney, Tom McClatchie, Marvin Mont-

gomery, Jeremy Morris, John Mullin, Jeremy Nash, Michael Norris, David Phy, Joel Qualls, Danny Randolph, Fred Ray, Ray Rowland, Jason Scott, John Sisco, Brandon Smith, Daniel Snyder, Tony Stamps, Troy Tayse, Tony Waters, Matt White, Tony Williams, Josh Womack, Shandrea Womack and Zack Womack.

**TEXAS CHEERLEADERS RAISE
MONEY FOR U.S. TROOPS COM-
ING HOME FROM IRAQ**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, a strong sense of patriotism is sweeping through the second district of Texas between to local football teams and spreading on to the gridiron. It is a short story, but it says volumes about the generosity and spirit of the people of Texas.

The varsity cheerleaders at Klein Forest High School and Westfield High School challenged each other to see who could raise the most money for troops returning home from Iraq.

The challenge would last two weeks and the money would be presented to members of the Family Readiness Group of Company B, 15th Brigade Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade during a homecoming football game.

The cheerleaders collected donations during and after school for the next two weeks. They asked local businesses to help support the troops returning home to Texas. During the homecoming football game, they passed around buckets throughout the stadium for additional donations from the fans.

The two cheerleading squads raised close to \$4,000.00 for the Family Readiness Group to use in welcoming home the troops this holiday season.

I commend both squads for being generous and patriotic Americans. Thanks for showing the troops that we support and appreciate the sacrifices they are making for us, our families, and our future.

And that's just the way it is.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING HIL-
LARY BROWN FOR PLACING SEC-
OND IN THE MANCHESTER
UMBRO INTERNATIONAL CUP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Hillary Brown competed in England's largest youth soccer tournament; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown showed hard work and dedication to the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown has broadened her abilities and skills in the sport of soccer; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Hillary Brown always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional

District, I congratulate Hillary Brown on placing second in the Manchester Umbro International Cup. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated.

TRIBUTE TO NORCO CITY
COUNCILMAN HERB HIGGINS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, California are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Herbert Higgins is one of these individuals. On December 4, 2007, Herb will be honored at a dinner in honor of his retirement from the Norco City Council.

Herb has served on the Norco City Council for 8 years and served as mayor in 2002 and 2005. Prior to being a councilmember, Herb served on the Planning Commission from 1998 to 1999. Councilman Higgins has also served on the Audit Committee, the Norco Chamber of Commerce, the Riverside Child Safety Committee, the Water Task Force, and the Western Riverside Regional Wastewater Authority.

Mr. Higgins has achieved several accomplishments during his tenure on the Norco City Council including: initiating the charter system of government for the city of Norco, instigating the testing of Wyle Labs for the health of our children, developing the Community Action Group and starting the All Volunteer Programs in Norco and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Herb's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Norco, California. Herb has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events, and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires. I wish him and his lovely wife Doris all the best.

HONORING THE DEKALB COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the DeKalb County Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The DeKalb County Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1975. Since then, six more substations have been added. The department services 11 communities.

Without volunteer fire halls, like DeKalb County, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service

is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the DeKalb County Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Donny Green, SC Ernie Hargis, David Agee, Larry Bain, Duncan Block, Jeffery Bogle, LT Anthony Boyd, Patrick Britain, Gray Cantrell, LT James Cantrell, Ryan Carlisle, Gelasio Chacon, LT Billy Crymes, LT Kevin Curtis, Larry Dalton, Dustin Farris, Claude Foster, Sarah Hash, Timothy Hearn, Anthony Johnson, Darrell Johnson, SC Jerry Johnson, Travis Johnson, Cathy Jones, Richard Judd, SC Richard Kinsey, LT Michael Lawrence, Calvin Martin, Jimmy Martin, Ronald Merriman, Brad Mullinax, John Mullins, Robert Myracle, SC Jeremy Neal, Andy Pack, Billy Parker, SC Danny Parker, Timothy Pedigo, LT James Pennington, Shawn Puckett, Howard Pyles, Jeff Rankhorn, Tim Reynolds, Jason Rice, Wesley Slager, Paulino Solorzano, Jerry Summers, LT Anthony Thomas, C. J. Tramel, Calvin Tramel, Christopher Tramel, Roy Tramel, Kenneth Waggoner, SC Phillip Waggoner, SC Hugh Washer, Jonny Wright, James Young, and LT Mark Young, PR Jerry Bain, PR Kelly Cantrell, PR Daniel Green, PR Rita Houk, PR Justin Ligget, PR Caleb Roth, PR Jonathan Scurlock, PR Andy Snow, PR Shane Turner, and PR Christopher Wyke.

Honorary Lifetime Members: Honorary Captain Jeff Williams, Wilson Williams, Wayne Adcock, R.V. Billings, Mike Cleland, Melvin King, Honorary Asst. Chief Roy Merriman and Bob Rice.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JOHN AND ANNIE GLENN ON RECEIVING THE 2007 I'M A CHILD
OF APPALACHIA

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, John and Annie Glenn are proud of their Appalachia roots, growing up in New Concord, Ohio, where they both attended Muskingum County High School and Muskingum College; and

Whereas, John and Annie Glenn have been an inspiration to their community and the world by making a difference in the lives around them; and

Whereas, Annie Glenn has been a model for those with communicative disorders; and

Whereas, Annie Glenn has been a devoted mother and wife, mentor, confidant, and friend to many; and

Whereas, John Glenn has been an inspiration after being the first astronaut to orbit the Earth, to become the oldest human to venture into space and to serve as a U.S. Senator for four terms; and

Whereas, John Glenn is a testament to all showing that one can come from anywhere and achieve their dreams; and

Whereas, the couple appreciates the importance of education though ones lifetime; and

Whereas, John and Annie Glenn have recognized the importance of business and community achievement; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend John and Annie Glenn on their contributions to Appalachia Ohio. Congratulations to John and Annie Glenn on being the 2007 I'm a Child of Appalachia Honoree.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3996, TEMPORARY TAX
RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Temporary Tax Relief Act (H.R. 3996), and I would like to congratulate Chairman RANGEL and Speaker PELOSI for putting families first. This bill is necessary, fair and fiscally responsible. H.R. 3996 reverses the trend of tax breaks for the wealthy and instead gives a well deserved break to hard working middle class Americans.

The AMT was originally designed to ensure that very wealthy individuals did not use loopholes and deductions to avoid paying much or all of their taxes, and for many years it did just that. However, since the AMT was not indexed for inflation, a problem ignored by past Congresses, it now threatens to ensnare 23 million middle-class families. We must act now to prevent this unintended burden on hard-working Americans.

Additionally, several tax benefits for research and development, veterans, college students, and families will be extended by this legislation. These are important provisions of the tax code that, if allowed to expire, would cause millions of American families and businesses to be hit with an unexpectedly high bill from the IRS this year.

Unlike recent Congresses, we in the 110th Congress have made a commitment to pay-as-you-go spending principles. We are all best served by a tax code that is fair, simple and based on the ability to pay, and fixing the tax code for the middle class will mean lessened collections by the IRS. That is why this legislation pays for these tax benefits for middle class Americans by closing loopholes for a few wealthy individuals, such as those who pay less tax on the bonuses they receive for managing multi-million dollar hedge funds than most Americans pay on their hard-earned income.

This legislation also fixes a flaw in the tax code that places an undue burden on families facing foreclosure. Due to this flaw, the outstanding debt owed on a foreclosed home is counted as income for tax purposes. The individuals affected by this never see this 'income' and are clearly not in any position to pay taxes on additional tens of thousands of dollars. This bill will prevent this on-paper income from forcing American families to pay taxes on their misfortune.

I urge my colleagues to support this much needed and fully paid-for tax break for middle class America.

A TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON F.
FREIHEIT

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Clayton F. Freiheit. This remarkable gentleman merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has improved the lives of our people.

Many people have made contributions to our community, but few have left a legacy as has Mr. Freiheit. He was an extraordinary individual who made significant and lasting contributions to Colorado through his exemplary leadership and guidance of the Denver Zoo for nearly four decades. He commanded the respect of his peers through his singular dedication and was a mentor to practically every zoo and aquarium director in the United States. His was a life of enduring accomplishment and our community has truly been enriched by his presence among us.

Clayton Freiheit was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, and as a young boy his fascination with animals led him to draw pictures of the zoo he imagined operating one day. Mr. Freiheit worked as an animal caretaker while attending the University of Buffalo and at the age of twenty-two, he was appointed Curator of the Buffalo Zoological Gardens. To this day, he is the second youngest person ever to serve as the director of an American zoo and under his leadership, the Buffalo Zoo achieved national stature. In 1970, Mr. Freiheit relocated to Denver to become the Executive Director of the Denver Zoological Gardens. Mr. Freiheit is credited with enhancing the stature of the Denver Zoo and it is home to one of the most diverse animal collections of any zoo in the country. Under Mr. Freiheit's thirty-seven year tenure, the Denver Zoo came to be respected both nationally and internationally as a leader in animal care and exhibition, conservation programs, scientific study, environmental education and public service.

It comes as no surprise that Mr. Freiheit achieved unparalleled professional recognition. He served and unprecedented three terms on the board of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). He also served as its president and as a member of and emeritus advisor to its Accreditation Commission. One of Mr. Freiheit's colleagues noted that "He has spent his entire career advancing and promoting the quality and mission of zoos and aquariums (and) has no equal in knowledge of the North American Zoo profession." In 1996, The University of Denver awarded Mr. Freiheit an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of his many contributions to our community. In 2004, Mr. Freiheit became the 16th recipient of the Marlin Perkins Award for Professional Excellence which recognized his dedication to the AZA's mission of

HONORING THE SHACKLE ISLAND
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1992, with a donated fire engine by the Nashville Fire Department. The department has 30 members and a waiting list to join. The department purchased a new engine in 2001 and a new tanker in 2004.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Shackle Island, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Martin Bowers, Asst. Chief Barney Marshall, Captain Mike Elmore, Captain Row Wills, Lt. Brad Haynie, Lt. James Hendricks, Lt. Don Kemper, Lt. Ike Mills, Safety Officer Wynn Batson, Rick Lawson, Paul Christian, Paul Harter, Jeff Garrett, Kevin Douglas, David Frost, Mike Scudder, T.J. Taylor, Cody Steele, L.J. Millington, Jason Davis, Don Sizemore, Chris Parks, Jackie Vickers, Nick Traini, Dick Dickerson, Bill Mounts, Randy Roe, J.C. Russum, Nancy Reding, Mike Hackett, Jessie Devries, Jr., FF Scotty Sizemore and Jr. FF Mikey Taylor.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
165TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BISEL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the dedicated people of the Bisel United Methodist Church celebrates the 165th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as a beacon for hope to the destitute and maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in our gracious commitment in unity to each other in the bonds of brotherhood; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come from great dedication. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this congregation has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL J. OCHS' 20
YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Dr. Michael Ochs for his 20 years of untiring service to the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Michael began his work as a member of the professional staff on October 1, 1987, during a period that was to usher in historic change as well as turmoil in the expansive territory once dominated by the Soviet Union.

After completing doctoral work in Russian history and driven by a deep commitment to aid the victims of Soviet oppression, Michael devoted himself to documenting wide-ranging human rights abuses in the U.S.S.R. He participated in the first international human rights conference to be convened in the U.S.S.R., a gathering eventually interrupted by the Soviet secret police, the KGB. Michael was also part of a delegation that visited the Baltic States shortly after the restoration of independence to those countries so brutally repressed during decades of Soviet domination.

Michael was among the earliest pioneers in the observation of elections in the countries that arose following the unraveling of the Soviet empire. Amid triumph and tragedy, Michael has been at the forefront of efforts to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as the Central Asian counties of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. His depth of knowledge and understanding about each of these countries is only surpassed by his extensive network of contacts and friendships with many of the political leaders—some in government—many in the opposition. Dictators and democrats alike have come to appreciate his insights and analysis.

He has been a witness to the triumphs of Georgia's Rose Revolution and the toppling of the regime in Kyrgyzstan as well as the tragedy of the bloody massacre at Andijon in Uzbekistan. Some of his friends have risen to the highest ranks of political leadership while others have paid the ultimate price for their defense of democracy and human rights.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I am pleased to recognize and commend Dr. Michael Ochs for his service to me and my colleagues.

HONORING COMMANDER CHARLES
J. DULAY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Commander Charles Dulay of the Chicago Police Department. After 39 years of honorable and dedicated service to the people of Chicago, Commander Dulay will be retiring, leaving behind a legacy of excellence and dedication.

Since assuming control of the 17th Police District in the Albany Park neighborhood, Commander Dulay has been my partner and a valued ally in helping the people of our community.

Commander Dulay began his career with the force as a part of the Special Operations and Tactical Unit, and then spent 14 years as a captain and district watch commander. Mr. Dulay was promoted to the rank of district commander of the 17th Police District on June 1, 2005.

Throughout his career, Commander Dulay's achievement and public service have been recognized by prestigious honors and awards including two department commendations, 35 honorable mentions, and a unit meritorious citation.

Commander Dulay's community commitments also extend far beyond his work for the Chicago Police force. The commander is a member of the Chicago Police Captain's Association, the Asian-American Law Enforcement Association, and National Association of Asian Law Enforcement. An academic, Mr. Dulay, who holds a master of arts in urban studies from Loyola University, also has 14 years of experience as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Morton Community College, where he has taught Introduction to Criminal Justice as well as Criminal Procedure.

Commander Dulay has been married for 36 years to his wife, Diane, and is a grandfather of 2-year-old Tadgh. He has also spent the past 5 years perfecting his own award-winning red wine that he crafts alongside a close friend.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and the people of Albany Park, I congratulate Commander Charles J. Dulay on his accomplished career and thank him for his tireless service to the people of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck and continued success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING CHIEF JOHN
KAZLAUSKAS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Owensboro, KY, Police Chief John Kazlauskas, retiring later this month after 40 years of service to the Owensboro community.

Chief Kazlauskas first joined the Owensboro Police Department in 1966. During his tenure,

he has served in or supervised every division within the department. He first supervised patrol officers as captain beginning in 1983. He was appointed chief in 2002.

Chief Kazlauskas has compiled a long list of important accomplishments during his four decades of service including the development of the evidence collection unit in 1973 and the polygraph unit in 1981. During his 5 years as chief, he has worked to modernize equipment for the bomb squad and emergency response teams and oversaw efforts to install mobile data terminals in police vehicles. He also worked to improve administrative efficiency by implementing an electronic records management system.

Chief Kazlauskas has made a strong effort to involve the entire Owensboro community in crime prevention activities, creating a Citizens Advisory Panel, initiating a Crime Stoppers program, and creating a new public information officer position. These initiatives have been tremendously successful in fighting and preventing local crime.

It is my privilege to honor Chief John Kazlauskas today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for his long and successful career in law enforcement. He has made an indelible difference to the safety and quality of life in his community. On behalf of the tens of thousands of people who live and work in Owensboro, KY, I wish Chief Kazlauskas happiness and good health in his retirement.

HONORING THE BAXTER
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Baxter Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Baxter Volunteer Fire Department began in the 1950s with a donated 1947 Ford Pumper and a handful of volunteers. Currently, the department has 14 volunteers on its roster.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Baxter, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Baxter Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief Cris Austin, Asst. Chief Richard McBroom, Capt. Josh Herron, Capt. Fabron Nicholson, Lt. John Ramsey, Steve Warren, Bob Hicks, Joel Qualls, Jason Jones, Mike Randolph, Justin Ramsey, Shane Whitehead and Cadet Firefighters Dustin Stanton and Dusty Mahan.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT.
HERMON PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the dedicated people of the Mt. Hermon Presbyterian Church celebrates the 150th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, occasions such as these illustrate to us that love mixed with grace and trust will stand the test of time; and

Whereas, it is the fond wish of this body that you will continue to present this work as a beacon for hope to the destitute and maintain your stand as a symbol to this generation that our strength lies in our gracious commitment in unity to each other in the bonds of brotherhood; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the congregation for your unwavering commitment, recognizing that all great achievements come from great dedication. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this congregation has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

TRIBUTE TO NORCO MAYOR
HARVEY C. SULLIVAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, California, are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Harvey Sullivan is one of these individuals. On December 4, 2007, Harvey will be honored at a dinner in honor of his retirement from the Norco City Council.

Harvey has served on the Norco City Council for 8 years and has lived in Norco for 15 years. This year he served as mayor. Prior to being a councilmember, Harvey was an electrician. Mayor Sullivan has served on the Norco Schools Committee, Riverside County Library Taskforce, Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, CDA board member, Water Taskforce Committee, United Norconians for Life Over Alcohol and Drugs, UNLOAD Committee, Fee Study Committee for area fees, Alternate Trail Materials Committee, Beautification Committee, Riverside County Transportation Commission, Riverside Transit Agency, and the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority.

Mr. Sullivan has been a tireless advocate in promoting Norco as "Horsetown USA," was instrumental in bringing the Extreme Mustang Makeover competition to Norco in 2009, has worked with Desert Power to bring solar energy to all of Norco's major city facilities, and

has used Norco's unique lifestyle as an economic driver to promote economic development in the community. In his spare time, Harvey enjoys horseback riding, camping, fishing, and skiing.

Harvey's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Norco, California. Herb has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires. I wish him and his lovely wife Mynon all the best.

EMPLOYMENT NON-
DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3685) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) because no American should ever fear being discriminated against in the workplace.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act makes it illegal to fire, refuse to hire, or discriminate in any way against employees based on their sexual orientation. An employee should be judged on their qualifications and performance in the job, and only on their qualifications and performance in the job.

I am proud that as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, one of the first votes I cast was to ensure that every person in our State is protected from unjust discrimination regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender. It is disappointing that there are still 30 States in our country where it is legal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation.

While not as comprehensive as Minnesota's civil rights law, ENDA is a good step in protecting every citizen in our country from job discrimination. H.R. 3685 simply provides basic employment protections for gay, lesbian, and bisexual workers.

This legislation addresses concerns that have been expressed by explicitly forbidding quotas or preferential treatment. It also ensures that both denominational and non-denominational religious schools and religious associations continue to have all exemptions currently allowed under the law. Further, H.R. 3685 does not change in any way the definition of marriage under Federal law.

I joined Chairman BARNEY FRANK to strike a provision regarding marriage criteria in employment, because it has no practical affect on civil rights laws and does not weaken the ability of this legislation to protect workers from being discriminated against based on sexual orientation.

Along with my colleagues, I am committed to working to protect, strengthen, and guarantee the rights of all workers in our country. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2015, the original version of ENDA, which included protections

for gender identity. Had I had the opportunity to vote to include gender identity rights in this legislation, I would have supported it.

Current law bars employment discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. Further, the Federal Government already prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. It is time to extend these protections to all Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 3685.

HONORING THE GORDONSVILLE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Gordonsville Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Gordonsville Fire Department was established in 1968. Currently, the department has 19 volunteers on its roster.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Gordonsville, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the State of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2005, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Chief David Blessman, Asst. Chief Jonas Bullington, Capt. Danny Cowell, Lt. Aaron Sterling, Chief of Eng. Jimmy Gregory, Donnie Johnson, Matt Baker, William Vaughn, Paul Pope, Sam Bowles, Terry Fields, Jerry Craghead, Brandon Ingram, Josh Tisdale, Scott Bennett, Josh Collins, Melvin Paulk, Cyrus Shores and Steven Gray.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE BISTIS
UPON HIS UPCOMING RECEIPT
OF THE 2007 GUSI PEACE PRIZE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the 2007 Gusi Peace Prize is to be bestowed upon George Bistis, Chief of the Greek Service, Voice of America; and

Whereas, the Gusi Peace Prize recognizes one's untiring efforts of working toward finding peaceful solutions to political and social issues through broadcast journalism; and

Whereas, the Gusi Peace Prize foundation is a nonprofit organization that annually gives awards to individuals based on their contributions to peace and human rights; and

Whereas, this honor is delivered to Mr. Bistis by The Honorable Manuel L. Morato,

President, Gusi Peace Prize Foundation, and The Honorable Barry S. Gusi, Chairman of the Board, Gusi Peace Prize Foundation; and

Whereas, Mr. Bistis' contributions to broadcast journalism have made him an example for all to emulate not only in Greece, Turkey, and the Mediterranean, but throughout the United States and the international community; and

Whereas, the ceremony to present the Gusi Peace Prize to Mr. Bistis will take place on November 21st of this year in Manila, Philippines; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his peers, coworkers, associates, and the Greek-American community, I congratulate George Bistis upon his upcoming receipt of the 2007 Gusi Peace Prize.

RECOGNITION OF THE GREAT
AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize today as the Great American Smokeout. For 31 years, the American Cancer Society has designated this day to help smokers quit for just 1 day, in hopes that they will quit forever.

Cigarette smoking is the number one preventable cause of premature death in the United States. Every year, more than 400,000 Americans die from smoking-related illness, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and lung disease. One in every five deaths in the United States is smoking related. If current smoking trends continue, tobacco-related deaths worldwide are predicted to double to 10 million per year by 2030.

Secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke. Secondhand smoke causes approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 heart disease deaths in adult nonsmokers in the United States each year.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, people who quit smoking, regardless of age, live longer than people who continue to smoke. Quitting smoking substantially decreases the risk of lung and other cancers.

Most smokers want to quit. Scientists have developed, and continue to improve, effective ways to help people quit smoking. However, these effective smoking cessation tools are not yet available to all smokers who are motivated to quit.

For years, Congress has been largely silent on the issue of combating smoking. It is time for us to refocus on this issue. I have long been involved in efforts to combat smoking and its consequences, by introducing bills to prevent youth smoking and to support tobacco cessation programs.

This year, we have an opportunity to act. Congressman HENRY WAXMAN has introduced legislation, H.R. 1108, the "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act," to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with authority to regulate tobacco products. I hope we will take up this bill soon in the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve.

Please join me in celebrating the Great American Smokeout, and in commending those who make the commitment to quit smoking today.

PROVIDING THAT THE GREAT HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER SHALL BE KNOWN AS EMANCIPATION HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3315, a measure to designate the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center as "Emancipation Hall." I commend my friend, Representative ZACH WAMP for introducing this legislation. I am extremely proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation and commend my 226 other colleagues who share that pride as cosponsors.

I think the Akan principle of Sankofa symbolized by a bird with its head turned backwards taking an egg off its back, most appropriately demonstrates the importance of this legislation. This symbol demonstrates the old saying, "You cannot know where you are going, without knowing where you have been." The story of the United States Capitol exemplifies the importance of this principle in its many historically decorated corridors and monuments. However, the role of enslaved labor in the creation of the Capitol is most notably absent.

I strongly believe that the true history of our Capitol should be recognized so it is not forgotten or misinterpreted. Our Nation is so great because of the rich diversity of cultural narratives, including the experiences of my enslaved ancestors. Neglecting to acknowledge these facts when such an appropriate opportunity has presented itself, would mean forgetting the immense sacrifices of all who have contributed to building our nation. Emancipation Hall is the most appropriate title for the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center to honor that sacrifice in perpetuity.

Mr. Speaker, I am moved that the imminent passage of this legislation will guarantee that the true story of the construction of our Capitol will greet generations of visitors to come. Emancipation Hall will formally recognize a legacy struggle by African Americans and the resulting freedom that affords me the opportunity to serve in this Congress. I urge my colleagues to stand with me to support this legislation.

CONGRATULATING ALEXANDER HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alexander Hamilton Elementary School on receiving the 2007 Outstanding School Partnership Award.

Third, fourth, and eighth grade students of Alexander Hamilton were ranked in the top 5

out of 40 schools in their area in several categories. The students that were at or above national norms were as follows: third grade reading—91.7 percent, fourth grade science—87.5 percent, eighth grade math—93.3 percent, and eighth grade composite—93.3 percent. The overall combined composite score for third through eighth grades indicated that 80.3 percent of students were at or above national norms.

In recognition of these achievements, Chicago Public School's CEO Arne Duncan and Mayor Richard Daley presented Principal Dr. Mila Strasburg with the 2007 Outstanding School Partnership Award.

Alexander Hamilton Elementary School has a long history of excellence in academic achievement. It has been an Illinois State Board of Education "Spotlight School" for several years, a Chicago Public School "School of Distinction", and has been recognized by the "Designs for Change" for fifteen consecutive years for high student achievement.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Alexander Hamilton Elementary School on receiving the 2007 Outstanding School Partnership Award and for setting a shining example for our Nation's public schools.

HONORING THE KITTRELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the members of the Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless dedication and bravery in protecting our families, day and night.

The Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department was established in October 1990. In their first year of service, the group responded to nearly 70 calls. Today, the Fire Department has 21 volunteers on its roster and answers between 150 and 175 calls per year.

Without volunteer fire halls, like Kittrell, many places in the Sixth District would lack effective fire protection. In the state of Tennessee, over 70 percent of fire service is provided by volunteers. Among these volunteers, almost 75 percent work other daily jobs.

Ensuring our families' safety is not without risk. Sadly, an average of two firefighters die each year in Tennessee in the line of duty. In 2007, the Tennessee Fire Services and Code Academy dedicated a memorial on their main campus in Bell Buckle to honor those Tennessee firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

For their willingness to serve, the following members of the Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department deserve recognition: Members: Asst. Chief Tracey Curray, Asst. Chief Joe Barrett, Capt. Bobby Brewer, Capt. James Paul, Lt. Tim Curray, Lt. Alison Mitchell, Chris Kirksey, Dewayne Hayes, Alvin Brandon, Adam Long, Addison Bond, Charles Saylor, John Lugo, Jr., John Wiseman, Brad Lynn and Stephanie Taylor; Members who also serve on Board of Directors: Fire Chief George Curray, Laughlin Youree, John Donnell, Bud Mitchell and Matt Lane; Board of Directors: Glenn Mitchell, Faye Curray, Robert Adams, Joseph Peay and Jim Puckett.

RECOGNITION OF EIGHTH ANNUAL NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the eighth annual National Adoption Day.

On November 17, 2007, a record number of courts across the country will open their doors to finalize the adoptions of thousands of children from foster care. Every child deserves a permanent and loving family and today there are 114,000 children in foster care who are still in need of adoptive homes.

I laud the goals of National Adoption Day 2007 which include:

Finalizing adoptions from foster care in all 50 States; celebrating and honoring all families who adopt; raising awareness about the 114,000 children currently in foster care waiting for adoption; encouraging others to adopt children from foster care; building collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts, and advocacy organizations.

I applaud the efforts of the hundreds of volunteer lawyers, foster care professionals, child advocates and local judges who will come together to celebrate adoptions. I hope the goals of National Adoption Day are met and far exceeded.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 62, the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2007. I commend my colleague Representative BACA for introducing this resolution and am honored to be an original cosponsor of the legislation. This is a much needed resolution that recognizes the vital contributions of Native Americans to the history of our Nation.

I only need to acknowledge my own heritage to know that the steps to build the bridge of understanding and diplomacy with the Native Americans and other minorities have been inadequate in this country. This legislation proves that we live in a nation that is great for being able to reflect accurately and recognize the history of its own oppressed people.

This bill considers the Friday after Thanksgiving as the appropriate day for the Native American Heritage Day. The timing for this day could not be more appropriate than during a weekend of celebration and giving thanks. It is only right that the original inhabitants of our nation be duly recognized in conjunction with this important celebration.

Mr. Speaker, a specific day of recognition will allow future generations to appropriately recognize and admire Native Americans for their important contributions to all aspects of the American life. For too long, this assistance in the development of our nation has been overlooked.

This day of heritage does not only exhibit proper respect for the indigenous people of

our Nation, but paves the way for tremendous educational opportunities. The implementation of this bill would greatly increase awareness and respect for Native Americans through culturally competent incorporation of their historic contributions into our educational institutions. Taking such action is absolutely essential for our educational curriculum in order to develop progressive young people who can propel our society above intolerance.

Mr. Speaker, there are numerous Congressional findings about the contributions and achievements that the Native Americans have made to the United States that have not been fully realized by the general public. Many aspects of our government, culture, and society have ultimately been derived from Native Americans. Their ideals of checks and balances, freedom of speech, and separation of governmental powers were essential to the foundation of our nation's policies. Native Americans have, and continue to contribute revolutionary advancements in many fields such as agriculture, medicine, and music just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, this formal recognition is long overdue. Native Americans of this country deserve such recognition without delay. It is absolutely necessary to set at least a moment in our way of life to acknowledge the roots of our democracy.

I urge my colleagues to wholeheartedly support this resolution and other initiatives for the proper recognition of Native Americans.

IN MEMORY OF RAY SMITH, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Ray Smith, Jr., of Hot Springs, Arkansas, who passed away November 1, 2007, at the age of 83.

Ray Smith, Jr., spent his lifetime dedicated to his family, his country and to public service. After returning from World War II where he served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps, Smith completed law school and began practicing in his hometown of Hot Springs.

Smith decided in 1955 to run for public office, which began his whirlwind career in politics that has left a lasting impression upon the Hot Springs region and the State of Arkansas. After he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives, Smith rose through the ranks and became majority leader, majority whip and chairman of the House Education Committee. However, it was prior to these accomplishments in which Smith's name will forever be remembered. During the 1958 special session called by then-Governor Orval Faubus, Smith cast the lone dissenting vote on a Faubus bill to close any schools that were ordered to be integrated. It was this belief in equality and opportunity for all Americans that led Smith to vote his convictions even when his colleagues could not.

During his 27 years representing Hot Springs in the Arkansas State Legislature, Smith continued to play a key role in the community. His belief in the importance of education led him to sponsor legislation creating the Garland County Community College,

where he would go on to serve as chairman of the board of trustees. His dedication to local organizations such as the Boys Club of Hot Springs and the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club displayed his deep commitment to giving back to the community.

In addition to his civic leadership, Ray Smith, Jr., was also a man of devout faith. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church where he served on the board of trustees and as chairman of the Official Board of the First United Methodist Church.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Patricia Floyd Smith of Hot Springs; his three sons, William Randolph Smith of Washington, DC, Scott Floyd Smith of New York, New York, and Steven Bryan Smith of Hot Springs; his two daughters Patricia Carol Smith of Arkadelphia and Suzanne Smith Palmieri of Silver Spring, Maryland; his brother William Y. Smith of Falls Church, Virginia; his sister Betty Mildred Pierce of Pine Bluff; and to his nine grandchildren and numerous friends. Ray Smith, Jr., will be greatly missed in Hot Springs, Garland County and throughout the State of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R.
2614

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, H.R. 2614 is a relatively modest, yet important step towards meeting the long-term water needs for the West. Water recycling is an approach that more and more communities are tapping to meet local and regional water demand. To address the continued growth of water users, communities are truly maximizing the use of every drop of water.

H.R. 2614 authorizes Federal participation in conjunction with two water reclamation projects, one located in my congressional district and one located in the 41st Congressional District of California. Both projects are located in the greater Inland Empire, a region heavily dependent on imported sources of water.

The City of Corona Water Recycling and Reuse Project will enable the city of Corona to provide recycled water to parks, landscape maintenance districts, schools, landscaped freeway frontages and any other project that does not require potable water. The project will also reduce the need for increased water imports and construction of additional drinking water infrastructure.

The project will consist of three reservoirs and two pump stations along with retrofitted user irrigation systems. Additionally, 27 miles of pipelines are needed since recycled water is required to be kept completely separate from drinking water and uses a dedicated system of pipelines. The city plans to retrofit approximately 200 sites including schools, public parks and landscape areas, freeway landscaping, golf courses, and commercial landscaping.

The Yucaipa Valley Water Supply Renewal Project will maximize the various water resources in the Yucaipa Valley. The new facility will contain an advanced filtration (reverse osmosis) system and a brine pipeline to remove

salinity, contaminants, and organic compounds from the water supply in the Yucaipa Valley. The brine pipeline will extend nearly 20 miles to the existing Santa Ana Regional Interceptor brine pipeline.

The completed project will minimize the amount of water imported from northern California, maximize the use of higher quality water, reduce withdrawals from ground water supplies, and provide a long-term, drought-proof water supply. The full project is expected to reduce demands on the California State Water Project by over 4 billion gallons per year, which is a sufficient quantity of water for 27,000 families of four each year.

I want to thank the city of Corona and city of Yucaipa for developing innovative, water-saving projects that truly benefit our entire region. I also want to thank my good friend Grace Napolitano, the Chairwoman of the Water and Power Subcommittee, for her leadership and support of my legislation. I know she shares my belief that water recycling is an important tool in addressing growing water needs in the West. Madam Speaker, I think it is crucial that we recognize and assist communities that are working to reduce their reliance on imported water and I urge all colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 2614.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this legislation.

This bill is the opposite of a blank check for the President. The funds it will provide are those that will be needed to move toward an "immediate and orderly" redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq.

The bill requires redeployment to begin within 30 days of its passage and sets a goal of bringing home most our soldiers from Iraq by December 15, 2008.

The bill also requires that our military's mission in Iraq shift from combat to force protection, support for Iraqi security forces, and targeted counterterrorism operations, and it prohibits the deployment of any U.S. troops to Iraq that are not already fully equipped and trained. And it extends to all U.S. Government agencies and personnel the limitations in the Army Field Manual on permissible interrogation techniques, to remove any doubt that loopholes remain for "waterboarding" or similar harsh techniques.

It's clear that we're seeing progress on the security front in Iraq—likely the result of more U.S. boots on the ground combined with an insurgency that has largely succeeded in "cleansing" Iraq's neighborhoods, driving Iraq's Sunni and Shia populations out of areas where they once lived side by side.

But when he announced the "surge" of additional troops to Iraq, President Bush promised us more than progress on the security front in Iraq.

We sent more troops to Iraq to provide "breathing space" for the Iraqi Government to

move toward political reconciliation, and that hasn't even begun to happen.

In my view, there is no sustainable role for large numbers of U.S. troops to play in Iraq—whether refereeing a civil war or waiting for the Iraqi Government to decide to act within the “breathing space” our brave troops have provided and our taxpayers are paying for at \$9 billion per month.

However, while this bill sends the right message—that our troops cannot remain in Iraq indefinitely—regrettably, it does not send it in the best way, because it will be supported almost exclusively by Democrats, and the President has already promised to veto it.

What we need is consensus here at home on a path forward in Iraq, and today's quick consideration of this bill doesn't bring us any closer to that goal.

I believe consensus can be found around the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, which I introduced as legislation earlier this year, including supporting a course of escalating economic development, empowerment of local government, the provision of basic services, a “surge” in regional and international diplomatic efforts, and lightening the American footprint in Iraq.

Only Democrats and Republicans working together can find the path out of Iraq. I will continue to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on further steps we can take to change our broader Iraq policy.

RECOGNIZING AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, today is America Recycles Day. Celebrating its 10th year, America Recycles Day is dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits of recycling and encouraging Americans to increase their involvement in recycling at home and work. It also serves as a reminder of the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling.

We're familiar with many recyclables, as more and more Americans take them out to their bins every day. Cardboard boxes are recycled and re-appear as new boxes. Yesterday's front page of a local newspaper may show up as a sports page next month. Glass bottles, aluminum cans, and plastics are also fixtures of daily recycling habits. According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recycling is conservatively projected to have saved 900 trillion Btus, equal to the annual energy use of 9 million households, in 2005.

But it's also important to recognize that recycling is much bigger than just the daily household products that end up in the curbside bin. More than 150 million tons of old cars, tires, materials from buildings that have been demolished, and a wide variety of left-over manufacturing materials are recycled in this country every year.

Scrap recycling is a \$65 billion industry in the U.S. that employs over 50,000 people. It also invests significant capital in high-tech, environmentally designed manufacturing machinery that is used to sort, pack, transform, process, manufacture and ship materials to be-

come new products. The scrap recycling industry is also a leading exporter, sending more than \$15 billion a year in products to over 140 countries around the world.

I hope all Americans will take a moment to think today about the role recycling plays in their daily lives, the environment, and our economy, and dedicate themselves to doing more.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOMBALL, TX

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most extraordinary towns in our country, Tomball, TX, and join them in celebrating their 100-year anniversary. This community began in the early 1800s as a farming community and has grown to be a town encompassing economic growth and core American values which makes our Nation a great place to live.

Tomball was first known as Peck but at the turn of the century, in 1907, the town was officially named Tomball in honor of Mr. Thomas Henry Ball; a Congressman, a lawyer, a proud father, and an honorable man.

Tomball saw their first boom in 1906 when the railroad came to town. The first freight train and the first passenger rail rolled through town in 1907. Today visitors can step back in time and enjoy the newly refurbished train depot, in the heart of downtown Tomball, as trains move through town as they did a century ago.

Tomball was also known as “Oil Town U.S.A.” in the early 1930's when oil was discovered in a big Texas way with a “gusher.” The city was quick to realize the extraordinary asset before them and negotiated a deal with Humble Oil and Gas allowing the company drilling rights within the city in exchange for free oil and gas to Tomball residents for the next 50 years.

Tomball has seen growth in all aspects of the community. Since the turn of the century, there has been the boom of the railroad, the great success of oil and gas, real estate growth, and road improvements all contributing to the strong economic base for this town. Tomball has always been a place with extraordinary schools, both public and private. The city possesses citizens with an eagerness to learn extending to higher education within the college system. Faith is important to this community and is the foundation that enables numerous churches to congregate within the area.

Tomball is an amazing town within Harris County, TX. It is the continued dedication to this town by its residents which makes it one of the friendliest places to live, not only in Texas but in the United States. Although Tomball has endured many changes over the last century one thing remains the same, the people. As we celebrate the first 100 years of Tomball it is with great joy I say thank you for being a wonderful and compassionate community. The devotion for this community is contagious and I am honored to be your representative, in fact I proudly display a sign in my office that says, “I Love Tomball.” I wish

this city all the best in the next 100 years. Happy Birthday, Tomball and congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone.

JOHN GLENN ELEMENTARY RECEIVING THE 2007 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Glenn Elementary School in Donahue, IA. This week, John Glenn Elementary received the 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award. John Glenn Elementary was one of only five schools in Iowa, and 1 of only 289 of 133,000 eligible schools in the country to receive this award. The Blue Ribbon School Award is given annually to a select number of schools that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Schools that have received the Blue Ribbon Award are seen as national models that other schools can learn from. John Glenn Elementary clearly fits this role and should be used as a model for other schools in Iowa and throughout the country. The students and faculty at John Glenn Elementary think of themselves as not just another elementary school, but a family. Every day, they actively work with each other and help each other to achieve the goals the school has set forth. John Glenn Elementary has also gained a reputation for being not only a great elementary school, but an active leader in the community. The school has an ongoing alliance with Big Brothers, Big Sisters and operates a volunteer grandparents program. It is clear that John Glenn Elementary has served not only the children that attend the school, but the community as well.

Yesterday, I had the honor of meeting Principal C.J. Albertson and Cindy Irwin, a 5th Grade teacher at John Glenn Elementary. I applaud Principal Albertson, Ms. Irwin, and the entire faculty at John Glenn Elementary for their commitment to public education and the development of our children. All of their hard work and dedication has made John Glenn Elementary one of the best schools in the country. I'm proud to be representing John Glenn Elementary School in Congress and look forward to hearing of their continued success in North Scott County.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the eve of National Adoption Day to recognize those American families that open their hearts and homes to our most vulnerable children and teenagers.

There are currently 114,000 children in foster care who need adoptive homes. Many of these children were victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, and most will wait at least

five years and will move at least three times before they are adopted. One in five will never be adopted. In the face of these disheartening statistics, we must celebrate those parents who choose to adopt and provide a loving home to these children and encourage the adoption of more children from foster care.

In November 2000, hundreds of lawyers, child advocates, State foster care agencies, and courts, worked together to finalize hundreds of foster care adoptions across the country as part of National Adoption Day. Since then, National Adoption Day has grown as thousands of new families have come together.

I am proud that Montgomery County, Maryland, which is in my Congressional District, has finalized 7 adoptions this month and 30 so far this year. In one family, 2 sisters, Jerry and Beverly Wright, have adopted 5 children, and, with their biological children, now have 10 children safe and well-cared-for in their home. I congratulate them, and all the happy and thriving families that include adopted children.

HOMEOWNERS' DEFENSE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3355) to ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners' insurance coverage for catastrophic events:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank Mr. KLEIN and Mr. MAHONEY for their leadership in authoring this bill.

Too well, we all remember the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the resulting confusion families encountered about their insurance coverage or lack thereof. Well, imagine if a hurricane were to go through a state and only 1 in 8 homeowners were covered by an insurance policy. Unfortunately, this is exactly the situation that exists in California today—only 1 in 8 (or 12 percent) of Californians possess earthquake insurance. At the time of the Northridge earthquake in 1994 almost three times as many people were covered. After the Northridge earthquake, the cost of the coverage doubled and the amount of coverage provided was cut in half.

The California Earthquake Authority (CEA)—created after the Northridge earthquake when insurers restricted homeowners' insurance policies in order to avoid earthquake exposure—currently provides about two-thirds of the residential insurance coverage in California. Since its inception 11 years ago, CEA has been unable to accumulate the amount of capital it projects it will need in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. This year approximately 40 percent of the premium that CEA collects from policyholders will be paid to reinsurers rather than towards capital accumulation or more coverage under the policy.

Including the CEA in the benefits provided under H.R. 3355 will allow it to reduce its claims-paying financing costs while still being able to pay the cost of its losses and repay any reinsurance or loans from the Federal

government. By reducing its claims paying costs CEA will be able to accumulate capital faster and encourage more people to buy earthquake insurance.

Inclusion of the CEA in H.R. 3355 makes good economic sense, good actuarial sense, and good common sense. I urge my colleagues to support the Manager's Amendment and the underlying bill before us today.

THE ENSURING MEDICARE ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL THERAPY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the many Medicare beneficiaries who require therapeutic rehabilitative services.

I first developed an interest in rehabilitation issues after someone in my own family was forced to cope with a disabling paralytic disease. I saw the benefits of recreational therapy first hand, through the therapy my father received, and I want to be sure everyone has access to the same treatment already covered by Medicare.

Recreational therapy can be a vital service for the ill and the disabled. In many cases, it is a critical means for improving the functioning, independence, and quality of life of persons with illness or disability. Recreational therapy is always prescribed and supervised by a physician as part of a patient's rehabilitative plan of care.

It has long been a priority of mine to remove existing barriers to Medicare beneficiaries' access to recreational therapy. For years, I have worked alongside therapists in trying to help those with illnesses or disabling conditions gain consistent access to these services.

In the past, dozens of my colleagues and I have sought clarification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on its policy on coverage and payment of recreational therapy services in three inpatient settings: rehabilitation hospitals (IRFs), psychiatric hospitals (IPFs) and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).

CMS regulations and policy manuals currently lack sufficient clarity on the treatment of recreational therapy provided in these inpatient settings. As a result, widespread confusion and misperceptions surround the recreational therapy benefit under Medicare. Out of concern for potential liability for fraud and abuse, many IRF, IPS, and SNF facility administrators are declining to offer recreational therapy, creating inconsistent access to these vital services for patients throughout the country.

CMS has responded to each Congressional inquiry made on this issue, but to date CMS has not clarified its coverage and payment policy of recreational therapy services to fiscal intermediaries, facility administrators, treating physicians, and other relevant entities. In order to ensure that patients are able to receive appropriate rehabilitative services, CMS must formally clarify its policy.

For the sake of Medicare beneficiaries in need of recreational therapy, it is time to require CMS to do so.

To be sure, CMS has confirmed in writing that it considers recreational therapy to be a covered service in each of these three inpatient settings. CMS has also confirmed that the costs of these services have been built into the prospective payment systems for IRFs, IPFs, and SNFs and, therefore, Medicare is already paying to provide recreational therapy services to beneficiaries who need them. Yet access to recreational therapy is not assured.

To remedy this situation, I am introducing the Ensuring Medicare Access to Recreational Therapy Act of 2007, with Representative Phil English, to make certain that patients who need recreational therapy services, as prescribed by their physician and as warranted by their health condition, have consistent access to these medically necessary services.

Our bill simply directs CMS to clarify current coverage and payment policy by issuing notification that recreational therapy is a covered inpatient service in IRFs, IPFs, and SNFs and that the cost of providing such services has already been built into the prospective payment systems for these inpatient settings. This clarification will serve Medicare beneficiaries far better than the current CMS guidance on this issue.

It is important to note that this legislation will not create new coverage, or add any financial burden to the Medicare program. It will, however, ensure access to rehabilitative care so that individuals with disabilities, injuries, or chronic conditions may regain their maximum level of independent function.

I urge my colleagues to please join us in the fight to remove these arbitrary and unnecessary barriers to consistent access to recreational therapy services for all the Medicare beneficiaries who need them.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT LOWE'S CHRISTMAS TREES

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Lowe's Home Improvement, a company that has long been a strong force of economic development and community involvement in North Carolina.

It recently came to my attention that this week there was a bit of a kerfuffle over a misprint in Lowe's holiday catalog. Apparently the Christmas tree section of the catalogue had a misprint that labeled them "family trees."

There was no small outcry from a number of concerned citizens who thought that Lowe's might be up to something here. Well, I want to set the record straight. After hearing from Lowe's myself I know that it was a simple printing error—a matter of a hiccup in the creative process.

Lowe's was quick to apologize for the printing error and assured me that they were not out to alter the nomenclature of this fine Christmas tradition. As a former Christmas tree farmer I know how important it is to millions of Americans that a beautiful evergreen graces their living rooms each year as part of their celebration of this sacred season. At the same time, I also know that Lowe's was in no way attempting to undermine our celebrations of advent.

I fully support every American's right to voice concerns over what many see as the steady march of secularism each Christmas season. But I want to assure them that Lowe's had no such intentions in mind. A printing error slipped through the cracks and the company has pledged to redouble its catalogue proofreading processes.

A company spokesperson has even been quoted in the media explaining that the catalogue title was an error and was inconsistent with the company's long-standing practice of referring to its Christmas trees as "Christmas trees." This spokesperson said that Lowe's had intended to convey that family traditions often begin with a Christmas tree.

I hope that now that the facts are out, we can all return to celebrating the birth of Christ this Christmas season, undistracted by this dust-up over a simple copyediting slipup.

THE ALL-AMERICAN HOLIDAY BILL

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and encourage Americans to come together this holiday season and protect the greatest economy the world has ever seen. The American economic experiment that started back in the early 20th Century has proved that freedom, innovation and individual drive have the ability to create a prosperous economy. Our economy has enabled us to build a democracy that so many nations seek to emulate. Yet I am sad to report that many families, particularly in the mid-west, which is the backbone of America, are losing manufacturing jobs to countries with less stringent regulatory systems and cheaper labor.

Madam Speaker, the holidays are upon us and I am troubled by the difficulty to buy American-made goods in my holiday shopping quest. Americans should be able to purchase products that are made by Americans. For many years, I have had concerns over the decrease in American manufacturing jobs and the increase in our trade with China, who sends us unsatisfactory goods that are harmful to our families and children.

Today, I am introducing an important resolution that fulfills what I believe to be one of our most important obligations as patriotic Americans: encouraging Americans to purchase American-made products this holiday season.

China is the second largest supplier of consumer products and an increasingly dependent supplier of agricultural products to the United States. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) stated that to date, in 2007, over 80 percent of CPSC recall notices have involved Chinese-made products.

Specifically, over the past year, pet food laced with chemicals found in fertilizer caused the sickness and death of several dozen pets in the United States. The Food and Drug Administration released warnings on toothpaste products from China that contained poisonous chemicals, as well as farm-raised fish products that contained uncertified antimicrobial agents. Furthermore, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a recall of nearly 450,000 tires suspected to have major safety

defects. Since March 2007, nearly 20 million Chinese made toys have been recalled by U.S. companies due to suspected lead contamination.

It is clear that China's irresponsible regulatory system is not sufficient to keep the citizens of their trading partners safe. In fact they are not able to provide safe products for their own people. In June 2004, the Chinese People's Daily reported that fake baby formula had killed 50 to 60 infants in China. Fish farmers in China reportedly feed various drugs to the fish to help keep them alive in polluted Chinese waters, and in July 2007, the Xinhua News Agency reported that a government survey of 7,200 different products from nearly 6,500 enterprises found that 19.1 percent of products made in China for domestic consumption in the first half of 2007 were substandard.

I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the U.S. economy and, in turn, our Armed Forces, by purchasing American products. One of the best things we can do for our returning soldiers is to make sure they have good jobs when they return. Buying American-made products will keep good manufacturing jobs available for our soldiers when they return home. I understand how difficult it will be to purchase all American food and gifts during the holiday season. However, for the 1.8 million American jobs that have been shipped overseas, for the future jobs that are in jeopardy of being lost to cheaper labor and, of course, for the troops serving our country overseas, I ask you to buy for America this holiday season.

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for H.R. 4156, the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act, which will begin the redeployment of U.S. forces out of Iraq, strengthen our military and enhance our national security. By passing this measure, the House of Representatives is, yet again, sending a clear signal to the President that we need a new course in Iraq.

Though I opposed the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq, I later voted for numerous supplemental appropriations bills to ensure that we provided sufficient equipment and resources for our troops. They have done an amazing job in undertaking a difficult and changing mission, and they deserve nothing but the full support of the Nation and its leaders. However, nearly 5 years after our initial invasion of Iraq, the best way to support our troops is to bring them home. In May of this year, I voted against the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007 because it gave the President far too much authority to continue a war that had been repeatedly mismanaged by the civilian leadership at the Pentagon.

Unfortunately, 6 months later, very little has changed. The underlying causes of violence in

Iraq, which are ethnic and sectarian in nature, have not been addressed. In September, the Government Accountability Office found that the Iraqi Government had met only 3 of 18 congressionally mandated benchmarks for legislative, economic, and security progress. These problems cannot be solved by U.S. military force, and we should not expect our troops to be involved in a civil war. We need to shift our forces from combat operations and redeploy them out of Iraq while we refocus our Nation's efforts on fostering a political reconciliation among Iraq's tribal, ethnic, and religious groups to end the violence.

The bill before us today provides a blueprint for ending the war and bringing our troops home. It requires the President to begin redeployment of troops immediately, with a goal of completing redeployment by December 2008. It also shifts our forces away from a combat mission to focus on force protection, counterterrorism efforts, and the training of Iraqi security forces. Furthermore, it prohibits the deployment of U.S. troops that are not deemed fully mission capable. This provision is particularly important because our men and women in uniform have faced repeated deployments with insufficient rest and training time, and we must take bold steps now to prevent our military being strained to the breaking point. Our readiness levels are already dangerously low because of operations in Iraq, which endangers our national security in the event of a national disaster, a terrorist attack, or some other contingency.

H.R. 4156 recognizes that we need a new direction in Iraq and does not give the President a blank check to maintain the status quo. For that reason, President Bush has threatened to veto the measure. I am deeply disappointed that he is so out of touch with the American people and their priorities. He has requested nearly \$200 million to continue operations in Iraq with absolutely no strings attached, while he ignores pressing needs here at home. On Tuesday, he vetoed the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008, claiming that it was too expensive. Operations in Iraq have cost a total of more than \$450 billion, yet the President is unwilling to invest \$10 billion in priority areas such as medical research, elementary and secondary education, Pell grants, health services to underserved populations, and heating assistance to low-income Americans.

While it is not a perfect bill, H.R. 4156 is an important step to force a fundamental shift in our Iraq policy and to bring our troops home. I would have preferred to see an earlier deadline for troop redeployment, and I have co-sponsored legislation with that goal. Nevertheless, a vote for H.R. 4156 is a vote for change, and I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

FEDERAL FOOD DONATION ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Food Donation Act of 2007. As we prepare to return home to spend time with our families and give thanks

for the blessings we have received, I would ask that we pause a moment and think of those less fortunate among us. Yesterday we learned from USDA's annual hunger survey that more than 35 million people in the United States are food insecure; they either suffer from hunger or must sacrifice other essential items for food. Tragically, of these 35 million individuals, 12 million are children. Unfortunately, the number of the hungry among us is increasing. While we, as a government, are taking steps in the right direction, we have a long way to go.

One step we can take is to pass the Federal Food Donation Act, which I introduced today. This legislation would require executive agencies who serve food on their premises to encourage the donation of excess food to non-profit organizations. Such "food rescue" efforts can be particularly useful to the more than 43,000 soup kitchens and food pantries on the front lines battling hunger. As we have celebrated Veterans Day this week, it is important to remember that one out every four homeless individuals is a veteran. Often, the beneficiaries of food rescue efforts serve the homeless community and these veterans.

I would like to particularly thank the dedicated individuals at Rock and Wrap It Up! for their efforts in conceiving and promoting this legislation. This non-profit organization has specialized in food recovery and has been "thinking outside the box" in the battle against hunger for years. I appreciate their efforts and look forward to working with them for passage of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line we must be aware of is this: the cost of food is increasing. As we prepare our Thanksgiving dinners we will likely hear a lot about the impact of inflation, rising transportation costs, and increasing commodity prices on our family budgets. The effects of rising prices have already been felt by our partners who serve the hungry. More resources are clearly needed. The Federal Food Donation Act may be a small step in the overall battle against hunger, but it is one worth taking.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR ROBERT
C. BYRD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on November 20, 1917, in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, the world received Cornelius Calvin Sale. Born to a poor, struggling couple, the child was too soon taken from the arms of his loving mother, when she fell victim to the devastating influenza epidemic. The loss of his mother separated him from his siblings and from his father, a man with talented hands and an honest heart, when he was sent to live with an aunt and uncle in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. There his name was changed and so was the course of history for my State and our Nation.

This November 20 marks the 90th birthday of ROBERT C. BYRD. He holds the title of the longest-serving Senator in the history of our Nation. He has held more leadership positions than any other Senator, has cast more rollcall

votes than any other Senator, and served on a Senate committee longer than any other Senator. In fact, he has achieved so many records during his tenure of public service that the Guinness people could devote an entire book just to him.

Here in the Congress, ROBERT C. BYRD has seen majorities come and go. He has occupied the suite of the Majority Leader and been banished to the Elba of the Appropriations wing. He has felt the sting of legislative defeat, relished in legislative victory. He has watched good men, full of hope, come to the Congress and build long successful careers in public service. He has seen many ambitious men leave public life, sometimes bitter and frustrated, sometimes drawn to the big paychecks of the private sector. Through it all, his love of the U.S. Senate and his faith in our constitutional form of government has never wavered.

In both his public and private lives, he has been guided by the old values he learned growing up in the West Virginia hills, reading the Bible, and listening to his "old Mom's" prayers, offered up in dim lantern light.

And he has been the most devoted of husbands. In fact, he remains so. Even after his dear Erma left this Earth to become an angel in Heaven, his love for her—true love—has endured and bolstered him in times of trial.

So much has been written, so many speeches delivered, about the senior Senator from West Virginia, that it may be a fool's errand to even try to say anything about him that has not been repeated many times over. However, in anticipation of this special occasion, I choose to mention one particular thing for which the people of our State are most grateful to him—ROBERT C. BYRD has given us the gift of hope.

From his youthful days of coal camp life in an era of depression, through his climb to the pinnacle of governmental power, ROBERT C. BYRD's life has been and remains an inspiration to me and to every man, woman, and child who has ever doubted themselves, or been afraid to try to overcome life's considerable challenges. He is our hero.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Creator for Senator BYRD and all that he has done for this Nation. May he have the happiest of birthdays, and may he some day look back on his 90th year as just one notch on his way to scoring yet another amazing record.

RECOGNIZING DEBRA BROWN
STEINBERG

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the incredible work of Debra Brown Steinberg.

Ms. Steinberg has been an uncompromising advocate for the families of the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center. She was quick to action taking an integral role in creating the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest 9/11 Project in early October 2001. She also drafted the New York City Bar Association's comments for the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund which was vital in creating the fund. This fund delivered a total of \$7 billion to family members of the victims of the 9/11 attacks.

But her work did not end there. For the last 6 years she has continued to care for the families of those who were lost. She has worked tirelessly for the family members of the victims who could not mourn freely—the widows and orphans of the victims who were immigrants on 9/11. Today in New York City there are 9/11 widows and orphans who fear going to the World Trade Center site because they may be identified for deportation.

Ms. Steinberg speaks often with these families offering them her legal expertise. She used this expertise to help draft the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, H.R. 1071. This bill gives Congress the tools to provide legal immigration status to the 9/11 victim's family members. It grants permanent resident status to the spouses and children of undocumented immigrants who died on 9/11. To qualify these families must have been beneficiaries of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Ms. Steinberg continues to push for its passage by consistently offering her talent and passion to our offices.

Her selfless and persistent efforts have given these families, victims of 9/11, comfort and hope that they will be able to soon grieve and live without fear. As I recognize her work today I hope we can honor it by passing the September 11 Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act.

THE BOTTLE RECYCLING CLIMATE
PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Bottle Recycling Climate Protection Act of 2007, which would establish a national program to promote the recycling of beverage containers, including bottled water, iced teas, sports drinks and carbonated beverages, by offering a national 5 cent deposit. This bill would help move the Nation towards a future of less global warming pollution by reducing the energy and related heat-trapping emissions needed to create the materials used in new beverage containers.

Twenty-five years ago, my state of Massachusetts became one of the first states to pass a state bottle bill in order to encourage the recycling of cans and bottles. Since its inception, Massachusetts' bottle law has been a tremendous success. In 2006, over 2 billion beverage containers were sold in Massachusetts and nearly 70 percent of them were recycled rather than littered or incinerated.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously called the States "laboratories of democracy"—the places where innovative solutions to the Nation's challenges are developed. Nowhere is the States' pioneering role in our system more vital today than in the area of energy independence and global warming. On these critical issues, the States are in the vanguard of a green energy revolution. In the case of the bottle bill, 11 states have acted as laboratories for more than two decades, very successfully. Now is the time to move this important program onto the national stage.

Recycling and reusing these bottles not only reduces the amount of litter that ends up in

our streets and the amount of trash that ends up in our landfills, it also dramatically reduces the amount of global warming pollution that ends up in our atmosphere. If all of the 58 billion aluminum cans that are thrown away every year in the United States were recycled, it would cut the emissions of heat-trapping carbon pollution by nearly 6 million tons—the equivalent of the pollution from more than one million cars. Cans made from recycled aluminum use 95 percent less energy than cans manufactured with new materials.

In addition, plastic water and juice bottles have become increasingly prevalent since many state bottle bills were initially adopted. While less than half of the aluminum cans sold every year are recycled, an astounding 80 percent of the 60 billion plastic bottles sold each year are not recycled. Including plastic bottles in a national bottle bill would lead to significant savings in energy and oil consumption. One ton of recycled plastic saves 5,774 kWh (kilowatt hours) of electricity and 685 gallons of oil.

I am proud to introduce this important bill today on America Recycles Day. Passing this bill would allow Congress to send the nation a global warming message in a bottle. We can still quench our thirst while reducing our thirst for energy. And we can have carbon dioxide in our fizzy drinks, while cutting down on heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall vote No. 1093 on November 14, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 1093: "yes."

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3845, the PROTECT (Providing Resources Officers and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats) Act. This legislation takes a strong stand against the exploitation of our children on the Internet.

H.R. 3845 will authorize the largest increase ever in funding for state and local law enforcement agencies to investigate child exploitation, through the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force program.

Expanding the ICAC program will build state and local capacity and also modernize the way U.S. law enforcement at every level investigate crimes against children.

Current technologies have assisted local law enforcement to identify over 500,000 individuals trafficking child pornography. Without the necessary resources, however, local law enforcement officials have only been able to investigate 2 percent of these cases.

The PROTECT Act would provide our law enforcement officials the tools and resources to investigate and prosecute these offenders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the PROTECT Act to ensure the safety of our Nation's children.

ON THE PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION TO IMPEACH VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD B. CHENEY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, last week, the House considered a privileged resolution, offered by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Kucinich, to impeach the Vice President. I supported an effort to refer that measure to committee where it can get the attention it deserves.

Having served on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have repeatedly condemned how the administration presented evidence to Congress and the American public to justify military action against Iraq. In October 2002, I voted against the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq in part because of concerns about the intelligence we were given. It is Congress's responsibility to investigate the administration's claims and actions, not only to understand to what extent the White House cherry-picked evidence to support a course of action, but also to prevent intelligence from being manipulated by policymakers in the future. Congress has held numerous hearings into these complex questions, and we will continue to be aggressive in fulfilling our oversight duties.

Frustration with the administration among the American public has become palpable, with some calling for the impeachment of senior elected officials. While I share the deep dissatisfaction that people have with the way our Nation is being led, we must be extremely cautious about how best to chart a new course. Impeachment is one of the strongest constitutional powers granted to Congress, and its exercise must be governed by the laws of this Nation and the rules of this House. While I respect the intentions of the gentleman from Ohio in offering his resolution, I believe that it would be premature for the Members of the House to vote on a matter of such gravity without the benefit of hearings and with imperfect information. For that reason, I supported its referral to committee.

When the American people elected a Democratic majority last November, we promised to lead the country in a new direction. We saw how the Nation's priorities had been ignored for 12 years under Republican rule in Congress, and we vowed to promote change. In the last 11 months, we have made tremendous progress—increasing the minimum wage, implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, restoring fiscal accountability to the federal budget, expanding access to higher education, investing in clean and renewable energy, and much, much more. We built on those successes just last week, when we passed a middle-class tax relief package that would prevent 23 million Americans from being harmed by the alternative minimum tax,

as well as an appropriations bill that would make long overdue investments in health care, medical research, education programs and veterans health care. Also, for the first time, the Bush administration is not getting a free pass from a rubber stamp Congress. We have aggressively investigated the activities of the executive branch, and through our oversight efforts, we have held the administration accountable for a number of its failures.

The will of the American people had been ignored for far too long, but this Congress has promised to address our Nation's most urgent needs. I will keep working to ensure that we pursue policies that reflect the priorities of all Americans so that we can put our country on the right path once again.

RECOGNIZING STEVE SCHAIKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Schaike for reaching an important milestone as a public servant to the people of Ames, Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Steve has served as Ames City Manager. After receiving his master's degree in public administration at the University of Indiana's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, he became the assistant to the Ames City Manager in 1979, taking over the city manager position in 1982.

Steve values citizens' opinions, thriving on direct contact and open accessibility with residents to aid in making decisions for the betterment of the community. He also works to foster a positive relationship with city employees, the city council, the Chamber of Commerce, and Iowa State University to bring the Ames community together. While serving as city manager, Steve has facilitated many successful projects to improve the lives of citizens including City Hall, CyRide transportation, and the new aquatic center.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in commending Steve Schaike for his leadership and service to Ames. I consider it an honor to represent him in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. MU NU CHAPTER'S ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AWARD AND R.W. SNOWDEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the recipients of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mu Nu Chapter's Academic Leadership Award and R.W. Snowden Scholarship Award. On Wednesday, November 14, 2007, the recipients of these awards were acknowledged for their outstanding achievements at an Omega Psi Phi Fraternity awards reception in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The awards reception was held in recognition of Omega Psi Phi's 2007 Annual Achievement Week Observance. The concept for Omega Psi Phi's observance of Annual Achievement Week dates back to 1920. Omega Psi Phi's Annual Achievement Week Observance provides this storied association with the opportunity to recognize the notable achievements of African-Americans.

The recipients of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mu Nu Chapter's Academic Leadership Award and R.W. Snowden Scholarship Award are: Tyler Jackson, Andrew Clarke, Stefon D. Thompson, Dorian Calhoun, Ian Francis, Biruk Kifle, Alex D. Weaver, Zachary Graves, Joseph Belachew, Zachary Etheridge, Hizkias Neway, Ryan Spriggs, Ayodeji Obayomi, Deonte Williams, Chigozie Mbanaso, Benjamin Warner, Matteo Bellistri, Asante Hatcher,

Natneal Gugsu, Roberto Marwanga, Samuel Berhe, Bradley C. Smith, Phillip Jenkins, Stephan Mulrain, Emiola Oriola, Jr., Robel Berhe, Patrick Owusu, Jonmarc Winfield, Adrian Stoute, Chase Barnes, Theo Josephs, Brandon Griffin, and Stewart Cornelius.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these recipients for their selfless community service and tremendous academic achievements.